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Overheard

Belongs to Jamie Wyeth, and the mystery legs belong to a (male) New York art dealer.

Paula Angemeier
Head of Communications
Greenville County
Museum of Art
Greenville, SC

BASEBALL MEMORIES
Thank you for the short article in the latest magazine on the Paladins’ run for the 1965 College World Series. I was in the stands at Gastonia for the game against Florida State as my dad and I rode up with my uncle, Jim Richardson ’56. I was in junior high and it was a heartbreaker. Good memories, though.

Steve Richardson ’77
Greenville, SC

SCHOLAR-SOLDIERS
I just wanted to reach out to you and thank you for a well-written piece on the ROTC cadets at Furman. You did a wonderful job of capturing the spirit and character of most cadets. There is a difference between the ROTC cadet from the other students. Never could quite put my finger on what those differences were, but your interviews with the four cadets really helped to crystallize the distinction.

Furman, I am sure, will receive much feedback from former graduates. It was long overdue for this segment of the university’s population to be formally recognized for their service and contributions to both the Furman University community and the nation. Thanks again for a very well done article.

William E. Mayville ’76
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

IN VERSE
A word of praise for the revamped look and editorial feel of the magazine, and the last page, “Still,” of which I am particularly keen. Thank you for including poetry. As a poet, this inclusion represents a source of art and intellectual/mystical food for the soul that is frequently overlooked and/or disregarded.

Connie Ralston ’70
Greensboro, NC

THE CONSENT DEBATE
In the fall issue’s Letters to the Editor, a letter-writer said, “Date rape isn’t a matter of failure to communicate—it’s an issue of failure to assume personal responsibility on the part of both the men and the women involved.” The author implies that victims of date rape are partially responsible for a horrific crime that has been committed against them. This idea is both ignorant and outdated. Considering that proper, honest sexual education in this country is sorely lacking, we need university staff like Jason Cassidy to educate college students about what is right and wrong in a sexual relationship. In fact, I do not know if this is being done, but I would love to see Furman implement a formal requirement in sexual education, similar to universities that currently have mandatory alcohol education. Sexual activity outside of marriage is a reality that we must all accept, and has been a reality since the beginning of human life, despite what the author of the letter would believe. We need to give students the tools to navigate these relationships, and to teach them that sexual violence is not acceptable under any circumstances. The only person responsible in these situations is the man or woman who chooses to commit such an appalling violation of another person’s dignity.

Alexis Wong ’12
Nashville, TN

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS
We welcome letters on any subject covered in the magazine. Letters should be limited to 150 words, refer to a subject from the most recent issue, and include the writer’s name and city/state. They may be sent to magazine@furman.edu. Although we make every effort to include as many submissions as we can, letters may be edited for length or clarity. Letters that address a topic before the most recent issue of Furman will be published at the editor’s discretion.
Q: THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF DEBATE IN HIGHER EDUCATION RECENTLY ABOUT THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH VERSUS THE RIGHT NOT TO BE INSULTED BY SPEECH DEEMED OFFENSIVE. WHAT DO YOU THINK? Read more Quotables in Class Notes, starting on page 54.

“FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS A RIGHT, BUT DON’T EXPECT TO BE LISTENED TO IF EVERYTHING THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH IS PATENTLY OFFENSIVE AND/OR POORLY INFORMED.”
—Ryan Matthews

“No one has the right not to be offended. Offense is taken, not given. People are free to say what they will and then they accept the consequences for their speech, both good and bad. Colleges and universities are the places for the free exchange of ideas, even bad ideas.”
—Tom Gilleran

“ANYONE CAN BE OFFENDED BY ANYTHING NOWADAYS AND IT IS ACCEPTED AS A MEANS TO MAKE OTHER OPINIONS MUTE. IT’S NOT RIGHT.”
—Kimbell Duckworth Ahlstrand

“If we can’t explore openly in our schools, respecting the views and opinions of all...where can we gain understanding? Where will we be able to challenge our assumptions and push the boundaries of knowledge? How will we gain an appreciation of when tolerance and forbearance should prevail in the face of dissension and obstinacy?”
—Bonnie Ansley Hacking

“I don’t think we students do or should have a right not to be offended. We came here to learn, not to be coddled. That’s not to say there isn’t a difference between conflicting ideas and bigoted harassment, but I would prefer an honest environment to a censored one.”
—hcox755

“BEFORE ONE TAKES OFFENSE, ONE OUGHT TO EXAMINE THE GIVEN STATEMENT TO DETERMINE IF OFFENSE WAS TRULY INTENDED OR NOT. INTENTIONS MATTER.”
—Greg Robertson

“Furman is a safe place to ask unsafe questions. One of the most important marks of maturity is being able to have a discussion with someone who believes something totally different, without being fearful or threatened. Furman taught me how to do that, and I’m proud it will continue to do so.”
—darseyland

“FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT OFFENSIVE SPEECH. INOFFENSIVE SPEECH NEEDS NO SUCH PROTECTION.”
—James Pulley

“ELEANOR ROOSEVELT ONCE SAID, ‘NO ONE CAN MAKE YOU FEEL INFERIOR WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT.’ IF I SPEND ALL MY TIME BEING OFFENDED, I’M TOO BUSY TO ACTUALLY LISTEN TO WHAT’S BEING SAID AND ENGAGE IN A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE.”
—Christy Allen

“This is a poorly phrased question. Of course free speech is essential and no one has the right not to be offended. It is simply that when a school promises to provide an inclusive environment that does not discriminate, it should provide that.”
—Rahul Isaac

“LIBERALS ARE ALL ABOUT FREE SPEECH...UNTIL THAT FREE SPEECH IS A CONSERVATIVE VOICE!”
—Russell Mauldin

“One day a person might offend you with his words, so you may seek to have him silenced. The next day maybe your words offend him; then what? Shall we all be silenced? Is it not possible to disagree anymore?”
—Mary Daly

“VERY GLAD MY ALMA MATER ASKED THIS QUESTION.”
—Charles Jackson
What We Know Now

Conclusions from a yearlong study help point the way to a stronger future.

BY ELIZABETH DAVIS

The way of progress is rarely a straight line. More often, it’s a winding path that leads forward, but only if we are both disciplined and open to the unexpected detour.

Last fall, shortly after I wrote in this space about a restlessness for renewal and our emerging strategic priorities, we received the results of a positioning study conducted by the firm Art & Science. Their report is at once sobering and promising, leading forward, but only if we imagine on a grand scale and scope.

Interestingly, students who chose to matriculate this past fall said they were enthusiastic about their choice and showed less concern with affordability. This suggests that matriculants have a greater understanding of, and regard for, Furman’s value. How do we make sense of these findings?

The answer leads us to the good news. Furman has always had an outstanding and scholarly faculty dedicated to teaching and mentoring students. Our alumni are models of success and service. More than two decades ago, Furman pioneered the concept of engaged learning, a model that has been co-opted in some form by institutions across the country. And Furman’s campus is one of the most beautiful and nurturing places to study and live and take risks that help students attain their goals. The students who come here see and feel these things. They boast about them; they succeed because of them.

The problem, we’ve learned, is that being a pacesetter forces others to catch up. Our competitors have done so. In some instances they have surpassed us. If we want to distinguish ourselves anew, we must forge new ground.

This will not be merely a matter of admission recruitment or marketing. Along with promoting Furman’s excellence, we must work together to define what Furman can offer to students that they cannot find anywhere else. We must imagine on a grand scale and scope.

There is, fortunately, a good foundation on which to build. Art & Science tested a variety of potential initiatives that could contribute to strengthening Furman’s institutional character and appeal—substantial and relevant experiences that would emanate from Furman’s core educational values and historic mission. They found that Furman might be uniquely suited to combine the best of a close-knit liberal arts experience with the resources of a much larger university to create a new type of university experience.

There is an emerging consensus on campus that this new type of university would entail an education rooted in the liberal arts and sciences, reimagined to focus more intentionally on experiences that prepare students for lives of purpose and accelerated career and community impact. Self-reflection and mentorship—coupled with project-based learning, career exploration, faculty research collaborations, and external partnerships—would take place within a community of experts. Faculty, staff, alumni, students, and community partners would ultimately work side-by-side to address society’s pressing issues in Greenville, South Carolina, and beyond.

In the coming months, we will consider how such an experience-based educational model might be developed as a complement to the core curriculum. Already, a working group from Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Alumni Relations is devising an expanded program for professional exploration and alumni mentoring for undergraduates. Dr. Angela Halfacre, who has graciously accepted my offer to become a special advisor for community engagement, will lead the development of a comprehensive plan to catalyze community partnerships.

It will also be important for our alumni and friends to contribute both ideas and philanthropic support, and I have been heartened by the efforts of many who, independent of the research findings, recognize the same issues we are finding in the marketplace.

I am optimistic about the path ahead, and from my many discussions with faculty, alumni, parents, and others, I believe the Furman community is as well. Indeed, when I think of Furman’s mission and its history of courage, conviction, and persistence, I am confident that this galvanizing moment is one that will find us once more setting the pace as a university to emulate and follow.

Warmly,

Elizabeth Davis

Letter from the President
Around the Lake

Hannah Dubois '17 practicing her arguments before a Mock Trial tournament.
This spring, Furman is set to open a new finance and business analytics lab located in Hipp Hall. The lab, named in honor of Joe ’78 and Diana Hurley, who were major contributors to the creation, gives students hands-on, real-time training with “big data” in business analytics for a variety of applications—finance, marketing, health care, real estate, insurance, risk management, government, and supply chain management. Students not only have access to such data, but more importantly they also learn how to interpret them in order to make thoughtful business decisions.

The lab is in response to a growing popularity for Furman’s business administration major, and in particular its innovative “business core block,” which provides majors with an MBA-level experience by emphasizing an integrated working knowledge of accounting, finance, marketing, and operations. However, consistent with Furman’s liberal arts philosophy to expose students to a variety of disciplines, the lab will also be available to non-majors.

“All students at Furman will have the opportunity to work in the lab and with the data platforms available to us,” says Kirk Karwan, John D. Hollingsworth professor of business administration. “A communications studies major, for example, may take a marketing course that uses the lab to determine how online ads can be better targeted to designated audiences. Access to the lab will not be limited to business majors, and that’s what makes it unique and true to a liberal arts education.”

Jim Mabry, another supporter of the lab, as well as a Furman trustee and executive vice president of investor relations and merger/acquisitions at South State Corporation, agrees. “This will be a wonderful learning lab for all students at Furman. It’s my hope that the lab will open students’ eyes to things they haven’t been exposed to, leading them to pursue things that they don’t yet even know about.”

Mabry also envisions the lab connecting current students with successful business alumni, both through guest speakers who are brought to campus, as well as through the lab’s video conferencing capabilities. Students will have the opportunity to seek advice about the data they are studying as well as have the chance to ask broader questions regarding current events and pressing issues in the business world.
“If something big is happening in the marketplace—let’s take oil prices tanking, for example—then the professor can take advantage of the lab’s technological abilities and bring an energy expert into the classroom discussion,” explains Mabry.

Joe Hurley, founder and chief investment officer of Chi-Rho Financial, which specializes in hedge funds, believes the professional connections made through the lab will ultimately lead to positions in the business field for Furman students. But he continues by saying the lab—and the business major in general—should have a much more holistic goal in mind.

“I majored in chemistry for three years while at Furman, and then I changed my major to history. I only took one econ class,” he says, when discussing his path to his current career. “But being successful isn’t just about learning the facts. Communications, writing, speaking—it all plays into business.”

And that’s what a Furman education is all about, these advocates say—drawing connections between multiple disciplines in order to become agile in an ever-changing world.

“This lab will help students gain perspective on the world,” says Hurley. “It’s my hope that lessons in this lab, paired with guidance from professors and alumni, will lead students to forming values and a sense of purpose about their presence in the world.”

Adds Diana, “There’s the assumption that once you figure out your path, you’re done. But that’s far from the truth. Your integrity and morality are constantly forming, especially in the business world if you become very successful, and Furman should be the guiding compass for these students.”

When Kirby Funt ’16 enrolled in Furman’s Fall in China Study Away, she didn’t realize she would also be given the opportunity to visit Tibet and Taiwan. “While each culture has unique differences, it is apparent that all three influence each other,” she says. Here are three moments in her self-described “trip of a lifetime” that capture that uniqueness.

1. Yakin’ Around: The landscape of Tibet will take your breath away (quite literally, as the altitude takes some getting used to). The rolling green pastures, snowcapped mountains, and clear blue lakes covered in Tibetan prayer flags make Tibet a very spiritual place. Yaks are a common sight throughout Tibet as the Tibetan people raise yaks for their livelihood.

2. Pieces of the Past: Taiwan is a culture that is still deeply influenced by mainland China, as one can see through the continued use of traditional Chinese characters throughout the country. This being said, Taiwanese culture also has a strong Western influence. The blending of these two cultures can be seen as you travel throughout the country. Within the modern and western-style buildings, beautiful, traditional temples can still be found.

3. Life on the Canal: Suzhou, China, also known as the “Venice of China,” is home to Suzhou University, the school that 15 Furman students came to call home. One can take a boat ride through the winding canals or walk the cobblestone streets tasting local cuisine and buying crafts from vendors. With beautiful gardens and monuments around every corner, Suzhou was a wonderful place to learn about, and experience, Chinese culture.
Humane Society

The winding road proves the best path for a recent grad’s work in international development.

BY ANDREW HUANG ’11

What I’ve been telling people lately is that I know what it’s like to live in a house without a toilet or running water. I also know what it’s like to sit in a college classroom to discuss why some communities—like where I am from—might not have running water,” says Karolle Rabarison ’10 as she describes how she found herself making a career out of international development.

Rabarison is currently serving as membership coordinator for the Alliance for Affordable Internet, an initiative of the Web Foundation, a nonprofit that promotes affordable and equal access to the Internet as a key tool in addressing issues like health care, poverty, hunger, and education.

“Traditional development goals tend to focus more on needs like food and health and education, but information and communications technology can be a driving force to achieve all those goals,” says Rabarison. “There are so many benefits to having access to the Internet, to having access to information, to being connected: economic opportunities, access to educational content, civic engagement. The recent Myanmar elections are a good example; mapping for disaster and crisis response as with Ebola, fighting corruption, financial inclusion...,” she inventories.

In spite of Rabarison’s obvious passion for her current work, she didn’t anticipate jumping straight to policy-level advocacy at the Web Foundation. Since graduating from Furman, Rabarison has operated at multiple levels of international development. She spent two years in India working with individuals and communities on the ground to address local needs in education, social entrepreneurship, agriculture, and rural development. While in India, she also cofounded Badal ja!, a digital platform for sharing stories to combat gender and social inequality. “I was, am, and always will be interested in a great many things, so no, I definitely didn’t arrive at
Furman knowing exactly what I wanted to do,” she says. But her journey makes a powerful case for the type of education Rabarison wanted when coming to Furman: Not knowing what she wanted to do gave her the freedom to do anything.

From an immersion experience in China before her freshman year, Rabarison gained an important initial perspective. At Furman, she was drawn to economics as an intellectual interest, which ended up being her major, but she also dived headfirst into the Furman University Student Activities Board—where she served as the treasurer, a committee chair for off-campus events, and the originator for Last Day of Class (LDOC) celebrations—as well as the Shucker Leadership Institute, where she worked on leadership skills with seventh graders from Greenville’s Sterling School.

Over her four years, Rabarison quickly realized that directly impacting people was more gratifying than pursuing knowledge for its own sake. “I am still most excited by opportunities to work with people. Meeting them where they are and connecting them to the resources they need to reach their full potential.”

Rabarison is realistic about the challenges that she—and others—face. “There isn’t any one solution or one right way to solve big hairy things like poverty,” she says. “There are a bunch of complex problems and myriad solutions all floating in a complex system.”

Yet, there is something reassuring about the fact that Rabarison is one such person tackling those issues. “The Furman programs I participated in were very much about immersion and learning,” says Rabarison. “We embarked as students, as learners, not as people looking to be heroes.” Because in the end, it’s not about saving the world. It’s about giving the world the means to help itself.

**From the Vault**

**Message in a Bottle**

*What you may not have known, remembered, or thought possible at Furman*

In 1999, Cherrydale, the splendid Greek revival home of James Clement Furman, the university’s first president, was moved from its footing at the base of Paris and Pinney mountains to campus. Over two days, Expert Movers of Virginia used their engineering skills to hoist the 4,960-square-foot building from its foundation and transport it three miles along Poinsett Highway to its present location at the highest point of the Furman campus. Just prior to the transplanting, a champagne bottle was reportedly placed on the balustrade where it remained, unmoved and unbroken, until the house resettled at the university, testifying to the solid structure of both the house and the university it has come to symbolize. This may also explain why so many alumni say their marriage vows at Cherrydale.

**Then**

*Reflections on Furman as It Was*

**It was with a lot excitement** and fear that I entered Furman that September 1960. It was a new world for me, even though when I was four my dad took a job as Furman’s assistant football coach, baseball coach, and basketball coach. (Not to mention my being a crown bearer for Mayday for the ladies, a character on many Homecoming floats, and over the years a water boy and batboy.) But that first week as a student, the administration scared us when they told us to “look to your right and left” because those you see won’t be here in four years.

The magnificent trees of today were mere twigs back then. It was a segregated campus. The women lived downtown and came out by bus to selected classes that first year. We men had closed study (meaning we had to be in our rooms every night) and Saturday classes (some at 8 a.m.). We had to wear those darn beanies everywhere. We were rebellious at times and drove Dr. Bonner to distraction by refusing to wear socks to class.

We were insulated on that “new campus” as television was not yet the fashion, but the Cuban missile crisis scared the devil out of us, and the death of President Kennedy our senior year was unbelievable in our sheltered environment.

Before we knew it—between the all-night bull sessions in the dorms, studies, fraternity parties, and sports—four years passed rapidly. When I graduated from Furman, there was no war. It blew in like a tornado in the summer of 1965. I was fortunate that I had taken ROTC, and with my commission in the infantry, I knew I would spend the next few years “playing army” in the safety of the States. But our comfortable assumption about the easy Army years became the nightmare of going to war in Vietnam. On November 17, 1965, I was caught in the middle of the biggest ambush fight of the 10-year war. Our unit received more Purple Hearts for wounds on that day than any in the war. We had 155 men killed and 134 wounded, including myself.

I started writing the story of those first five months in the Seventh Cavalry after years of research and collecting interviews from others I served with. The Seventh Cavalry was General Custer’s outfit that was wiped out near a river in 1876. Nearly 100 years later, our same outfit nearly got wiped out near a river. This story was denied for years by the Army. It needed to be told. As I wrote, I kept finding the ghosts of Custer, and they became intermingled with our “ghosts of the green grass.”

**About the Author**

Bud Alley ’64 graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biology. He received numerous awards for his service, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. Alley holds an MBA from Regents University and a master’s degree in public history from Middle Tennessee State University. Last July, he published his memoir, The Ghosts of the Green Grass.
The Genetic Goad

Gene therapy research has exploded, but what separates good knowledge from bad, and how scientists should negotiate that line, is a critical question.

BY LINDSAY NIEDRINGHAUS ’07

It’s the Monday before Thanksgiving break, and the anticipation of a few days off is counterbalanced with the dread of exams that will follow soon after students have returned. To abate the strange dynamic, Renee Chosed, professor of today’s genetics class, has baked cookies. Students settle in to seats, cookie in one hand while shuffling through notes with the other.

“All right, Jacqueline, you’re up first,” says Chosed. “You’ll each have six minutes to present on the disease you chose to research. I’ll start the timer when you’re ready.”

Jacqueline begins her PowerPoint. “I chose Severe Combined Immunodeficiency, or SCID. Also known as the ‘Bubble Boy Disease.’ It’s caused by a buildup of lympho-specific toxins. The disease has genetic origins but no specific mutation.”

Jacqueline goes on to explain how gene therapy, administered through a bone marrow transplant, has become a way to treat SCID. However, studies show that after this therapy, four out of 10 patients developed leukemia because of the activation of oncogenes—genes that can cause cells to transform into tumor cells. “So, there is no easy treatment or cure at this point,” she concludes.

Next up is Kennedy, who presents on Batten Disease, a common form of a group of disorders called neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses. Symptoms of the disease include problems with balance, seizures, trouble seeing at night, and speech difficulties. “At this time, there’s no known treatment,” she says at the end of her presentation.

Then Jonah, who speaks about Huntington’s Disease. “Treatments help with the symptoms, but they don’t cure the disease. Scientists haven’t found a cure as of yet.”

The next couple of hours follow a similar pattern, with the students presenting on a variety of genetic diseases, the majority of which are incurable. To those accustomed to seeing headlines in science that promise healing at every turn, today’s class is sobering. However, it paints a relevant picture of the medical field’s current relationship with genomic research.

“We live in a post-genomic era,” says Chosed. “We know the architecture of genomes, what happens with mutations, and how these mutations cause diseases. All of this is great, but it’s still not enough. In many cases, we don’t know yet what to do with this knowledge—how to fix these mutations and, in essence, cure the diseases.”

“It’s as though we are aware of all the ingredients to make a recipe, but we don’t know the steps to put them together. The result is a patient—and a medical field—that is knowledgeable about a condition, but not always equipped to take informed and definitive actions based on that knowledge.”

According to Chosed, more advanced knowledge will come with time, as more testing in labs is needed to fully understand how to manipulate and correct mutations. In the interim, patients must be responsible for how we react to the information given to us.

Currently in the field are a variety of genomic testing companies—some offer actionable results (you are at risk for diabetes, so perhaps you should change your lifestyle) while others offer diagnoses (you have a mutation in the Huntington gene, so you could have Huntington’s Disease sometime in your life). For uninformed patients, Chosed sees problems in the second category.

Take 23andMe, for example, a company founded in 2006 in Mountain View, CA, that claims to “help people access, understand, and benefit from the human genome.” For $199 and a test-tube full of saliva, you’ll get a “complete” genetic report. You’ll learn if you’re a carrier for any condition that may be passed down to your children, as well as information about your ancestry. You’ll also learn about traits that are controlled by your DNA, such as hair loss and your preference for sweet or salty foods.

More than one million people have opted in to the company’s service—because
WE HAVE COME TO A POINT WHERE WE ARE AFFLICTED WITH A NEW DISEASE: OUR NEED TO FEEL IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF OUR HEALTH—AND, MORE BROADLY SPEAKING—OUR LIVES.

Surely information about your genetic makeup is helpful in planning for the future. Except it may not be. Critics such as Chosed argue that some of this information, taken out of context and without proper counseling, could be dangerous.

Your report could say, for example, that you could possibly develop leukemia later in life. It won’t say, however, that this will only happen if the gene mutates, and that will only happen if specific circumstances occur. It’s important that these results are complemented with proper counseling and advising in order for the patient to fully understand the implications.”

In December of 2013, 23andMe faced a class action $5 million lawsuit less than a week after the Federal Drug Administration ordered the company to stop sales. The FDA accused the company of false advertising, stating that 23andMe claimed to provide “health reports” to customers, yet they had not provided the FDA with any proof of clinical validation. Further, the company was taking the information received from customers to create a database of information that was then marketed to other companies in the scientific community. Only after changing the way they presented results to customers was 23andMe allowed to resume sales.

Medical advances in the last century have brought a host of new information about how our bodies work and respond to treatments. The result has been a proliferation of treatments and cures. Heart rate quickening? There’s a pill for that. Need to lose weight? There’s a surgery for that. In the process, we have come to a point where we are afflicted with a new, overarching disease: our need to feel in complete control of our health—and, more broadly speaking—our lives.

Chosed’s class, however, reminds us that grasping for ultimate control is, at this point, still a futile effort. To be sure, we are much more informed patients than we were 25 or even five years ago, but there is still much more to be discovered. In the meantime, we should remain contemplative and engaged, not only about the current state of our health, but also about how we approach our lives.

“Science is moving very fast, and medicine just has to catch up at this point,” she says. “It’s my hope that my students leave this class with a basic understanding of genetics, and refer back to this knowledge should certain medical situations arise. More importantly, I want them to be knowledgeable medical consumers who feel confident in questioning and pushing for the truth.” It’s in the questioning where that truth emerges.

In a world that is concerned about achievement and recognition, Furman does more than hold its own. If one takes the time to read about our alumni and faculty, their accomplishments can be discovered far and wide. On an almost daily basis, current students are presented with opportunities that shape the kind of leaders the world is looking for. Greek life, for example, has given me lifelong friends; the Business Block course the confidence that I can succeed; and Furman’s culture has rekindled in me a drive for excellence.

When I got into college, that was an achievement, but at Furman, it’s not a laurel to rest upon. Just skating by is not what we strive for here. Very rarely have I come across someone who isn’t driven to succeed or make a difference. The more I talk to and interact with these people, the more I feel my own drive reappear. This may seem uniform across college campuses, but I would argue it’s not. So many college students are focused on doing just enough to graduate.

“Work ethic” is a major part of the Furman DNA. You don’t survive or succeed here if you fail to adopt or incorporate this. Of course there is an emphasis on academic success, but what Furman does is emphasize the bigger picture, forcing students to pick our heads up from the narrow tunnel we often build.

Cross-disciplinary studies, CLPs, activities that help us to do a better job of not becoming pure bookworms—I can almost guarantee that if I was at Southern Cal or Baylor (my other choices), my course load would not include classes on Islamic Studies or Arthur Conan Doyle. Nor would I have attended lectures on the impacts of drone warfare or a critical analysis of the Affordable Care Act. Fulfilling those requirements demands a work ethic, time management, general curiosity, and characteristics that drive the success of leaders.

When I was asked to contribute to this series, I first thought about ideas related to improvement—concerning Furman’s reputation, Furman’s athletics, Furman’s overall appeal. But the more I thought, the more I realized improvement isn’t my main concern.

Rather, I don’t want our efforts to meet the benchmarks of “prestige” to mean we forget the real opportunities here. Because, while a Furman education is tremendous, what really sets us up for success is the experience we undergo here as a whole. We can so easily overlook that in the face of desiring recognition and awareness.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Samuel Cubeiro ’16, born and raised in California, traveled across the country in hope of escaping the bubble he had grown accustomed to. A business and political science double major, he will leave Furman with invaluable experiences that have charted a course much different than what he imagined when he arrived. He plans to apply his education toward a career with a Major League Baseball organization.
DYNAMIC DUO
A project about the history of law in Greenville was born out of a partnership between a Furman professor and a former student.

Courtside
Law finds order in a new history of the Greenville County Bar Association.
BY ANDREW HUANG ’11

F ormer Furman professor and author Judy Bainbridge has long had an interest in local history. She is the writer behind Academy and College—a history of Greenville Woman’s College, which merged with Furman—and a regular contributor to The Greenville News. However, she didn’t originate the idea for her latest book Attorneys & Law in Greenville County: A History. She credits a former student for that.

Kirby Mitchell ’90, senior litigation attorney with South Carolina Legal Services, recounts a conversation he had with [Circuit Court] Judge Ed Miller approximately three years ago. “He spoke about the history of the Greenville Bar at a luncheon,” Mitchell says. “In researching for his talk, he went to the archives and realized that while the doctors, architects, and all these other professions in Greenville had written, documented histories, there was none on the Greenville Bar.” Mitchell laughs, “There was this sudden consensus. Everyone was like, ‘Of course we should [write a book]!’ without any knowledge of how to publish a book.”

With Attorneys & Law in Greenville County, Bainbridge patiently walks through more than two centuries of legal history in Greenville County, starting in 1786 with the establishment of the first county court. As Bainbridge details the interconnected lives of Greenville attorneys, the book adopts a certain resemblance to the Homeric catalogue of ships: an elaborate list of attorneys’ names, provenances, and personal histories follow. “These names are so much a part of Greenville: Donaldson, Townes...” she notes. “I was surprised by how much Furman was involved in the beginnings here, but for so long, [Furman’s law school] was the only game in town.” As Bainbridge moves through time, she identifies several moments of significance. The 1947 Willie Earle Trial is one particularly infamous milestone. Willie Earle, an African-American man accused of robbing and fatally stabbing a white taxi driver, was removed from police custody and lynched. His murderers, despite multiple eyewitnesses and signed confessions, were subsequently all found not guilty—to the incredulity of the court and...
THE 1947 WILLIE EARLE TRIAL IS ONE INFAMOUS MILESTONE. “IF THERE HAS EVER BEEN A TRIAL OF THE CENTURY, THAT’S THE TRIAL,” SAYS BAINBRIDGE.

the outrage of national press covering the trial.

“If there has ever been a trial of the century, that’s the trial,” says Bainbridge. “Not only because of the trial itself, but the impact it had and what it showed about this place. And it wasn’t nice at all. There were a lot of things in the history of the area that weren’t so pretty, and you can’t overlook that. But you can understand it, and that’s what I’m trying to do.”

Bainbridge also chronicles the Bar’s diversification as it grew to include women, African Americans—who weren’t a white, male Protestant—and the Bar’s growing impact in the public sphere as the U.S. Supreme Court pushed for the establishment of a public defender’s office and free legal services for low-income residents in the 60s and 70s.

“The whole business of public defense is still under-funded,” says Bainbridge, “but it flourished in Greenville because some people pushed to make sure it would stay.”

Furman alumni have certainly played a role in that push.

“I think there is a supportive environment [at Furman] for people who want to do things in the public interest,” says Bainbridge.

Mitchell elaborates: “In my opinion, there’s this Furman contingent of public interest law-oriented people that we should be extremely proud of. The Furman grads that come back to Greenville—they tend to have an interest in seeing the continued progress and improvement in the aspirational side of law. They’re trying to create equality and justice.”

In that sense, Attorneys & Law in Greenville County: A History, which is available for purchase on campus at the university’s Barnes & Noble bookstore, is more than a comprehensive accounting of a professional guild. It is a framing of Greenville’s growth—in all its fits and starts, pain and triumph—from the perspective of those who have been (and continue to be) driving forces for that progress.

The book adopts a resemblance to the Homeric catalogue of ships.
Kimberly Jackson ’06
Chaplain, the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center in Atlanta
BY BRENDAN TAPLEY

Your church was established in 1957 to recruit black students to the Episcopal priesthood. Were you drawn to a spiritual vocation, and this church, for their roles in the Civil Rights movement?

KJ: Broadly speaking, I was drawn to the Episcopal Church because of the actions it took in the early 2000s to deal with issues of race and reconciliation, also issues of homosexuality in ordination. Being at my particular church—it allows for that intersection of talking to young adults and engaging in issues of social justice while also discerning where God is calling us in the world.

What is religion’s role in shaping the conversation around issues like race?

KJ: Addressing major issues like racism and homophobia—that can feel really overwhelming. Especially in a country with 400 years of systematically oppressing black people. I think the role the church gets to play is to bring some hope into that space.

Do you feel that hope?

KJ: Absolutely. Almost every day there are these moments where I see another world is possible because I hear it come out of the mouths of young people as they name those changes.

Over the last year, there have been a number of racially charged incidents with white police—Eric Garner in New York; Michael Brown in Ferguson; Freddie Gray in Baltimore; Sandra Bland in Texas—not to mention the Charleston church shooting. You went to Ferguson. What isn’t the media understanding about these incidents?

KJ: One thing I didn’t understand was how deeply hurt and angry black people in Ferguson were, facing regular police brutality, mistreatment, and abuse. I listened to them talk about the smaller incidents of police pulling them over for no reason, yelling at them, calling them names. I listened to the mothers. Suddenly, this was a much larger thing.

White people have said they are surprised by these incidents, but black people often say they aren’t.

KJ: Well, some black people are. I certainly am. One of the things we don’t talk about is class, and as a middle-class African-American woman I don’t live in a neighborhood where the police are terrorizing me at all. So, it was shocking for me.

People made much of a post-racial world when Barack Obama was elected president. Did we misinterpret that moment?

KJ: Absolutely. Yes, it was incredibly significant, and you can go back and look at all the images of black people pouring out on the streets and weeping with joy and astonishment that this even happened. But we never went back and evaluated why we were so astonished. I’d like to suggest that the reason we were was because we knew this was not a post-racial country. We knew racism was very alive, very real. And so it was extraordinarily shocking that Barack Obama was elected. Also, I think people kind of closed their ears to hearing...
[about racism afterward] because they could look back at Obama and say, all is well, and you need to stop complaining because he made it, and so can you.

Would you say his election actually tapped a greater anxiety in white America about power?

KJ: I think white America was perhaps intimidated or concerned about their place and future in the establishment. There are instances of some white people doubling-down and making it clear that they are the true people of power. [They] did a lot to demonize Obama and make his job incredibly difficult. Racism was certainly a part of that.

The Black Lives Matter [BLM] movement has been criticized for rejecting the role of the church, in particular what they charge as its “passive respectability politics”—peaceful protest, turning the other cheek, etc. As an activist in both arenas, what’s your view?

KJ: I would push back a little on this—that the BLM movement is disassociated from the church. Some of that old establishment of the black church has rightfully been critiqued for its pandering to respectability politics. But there are a number of black clergy who have stood side by side with Black Lives Matter activists. We listen a lot more. There’s a mutual respect. The clergy can enter into certain spaces that the Black Lives Matter leaders can’t, and we understand it to be a mutual relationship we’re working toward.

Do you agree with BLM that there is a need to rebuild the black liberation movement?

KJ: My elders would say that the black liberation movement never stopped, so they would not agree that it needs to be rebuilt, simply that it needs to be continued. It has to have new strategies and tactics.

Do you have a sense of the new strategies?

KJ: One of the obvious new differences is that you’ve got a whole other class—poor and working-class black people—stepping up and demanding their rights. With that comes different rhetoric.

You provide campus ministry to Clark Atlanta, Morehouse, Morris Brown, and Spelman colleges.

KJ: My call to ministry came out of a lot of conversations I had while I was at Furman. So, I very much understand that college is an opportunity for young adults to begin to discern whether ministry might be a place for them.

There’s been a great deal of debate at colleges lately about whether freedom of speech should also mean the freedom to possibly offend. Have you experienced that in your higher education work?

KJ: I work in an all-black context, so this conversation doesn’t happen around race as much as it does about sexuality. The question becomes: Does a student have the right to tell a person who is gay that they are condemned to hell? I sit in this place of asking the question: Are there ways we can talk about this so it’s church, in particular what they charge as its “passive respectability politics”—peaceful protest, turning the other cheek, etc. As an activist in both arenas, what’s your view?

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Postings from the Inter-webs

What don’t people know about Furman, but should?

SEMSOPRANO:
That students are not simply taught facts but how to reason.

JGRUES:
It’s a wonderful institution for veterans. Served 2006–2015, now a full-time student.

MEREDITHMDANGEL:
People think it’s still so conservative and Baptist-oriented. Not true. I was introduced to so many different viewpoints and walks of life.

JEFF O’SHEILDS:
Furman has an excellent financial aid office. Prospective students should never allow tuition cost to “scare” them.

CHRISTY ALLEN:
I may be a little biased, but we have phenomenal libraries.

FRAN SEVIER BROWN:
After your kids graduate, you miss FU almost as much as they do.

ELLAINE HERSCHEDE:
Oh my gosh, I felt the same! Almost as sad on the way home from graduation as from freshman drop-off.

GINGER MAYBERRY GRAVES:
Our son has received tremendous support and encouragement from his professors. They have gone above and beyond in assisting him in and out of the classroom.

KATY MUHLHAUSEN HULLER:
Beautiful, safe campus... and easy to get involved in activities and clubs.

— not you personally condemning a person to hell?

How do you handle that?

KJ: It’s a really difficult nuance, and the reality is feelings are still hurt. We’ve gotten to a place [historically] that certain things are just not tolerated. The “n” word is not going to be printed in Furman’s newspaper. That’s about protecting people who have had the word used against them. There are times when the referee comes in and says, yes, you have a freedom of speech, but we have a higher responsibility of loving and caring for all the people in our community. I want to protect the people who have been the oppressed group, but without honest dialogue, we don’t get to a place where people understand where each other comes from.

Do you think politically correct speech achieves the opposite of its intent—meaning it censors or makes difficult conversations less honest?

KJ: When we start talking about race, these are deeply personal issues. It’s hard for people to have these conversations without feeling personally implicated. It’s asking a lot of people who have experienced hurt and oppression to be vulnerable to talk about that honestly, especially in spaces where they’re not sure they’re going to be heard or respected.

How do you do it then?

KJ: I’m teaching this class on race with a congregation that is 75 percent white and 25 percent people of color. I walk into the room and I say to them, here’s one of my own stories of experiencing something that was hurtful. I’m being carefully vulnerable with my own story and that helps open up some honest dialogue.

There’s a powerful sermon you gave in which you describe how even Jesus occasionally ignored those who wanted his intervention. You propose that we may not be aware of what needs our intervention because it’s not visible to us. How do we make the invisible visible when it doesn’t affect us personally?

KJ: Harvey Milk, the gay activist, told people who were gay, hey, you gotta come out of the closet. Everybody come out now and make your parents look you in the face. Make your colleagues—make the nation—see you. And change happened. Storytelling—that’s where things are being made visible.

That’s interesting—

KJ: All of us breathe in this polluted air. So, all of us are caught up in this system of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Even I as a black person have found myself saying something that was inappropriate to, or about, a black person. [But] by naming it, I’m not just looking at the white, straight man across the altar from me and saying ‘you, you, you.’ I’m looking at him and he’s looking at me and we’re recognizing we’re all caught up in this.

When it comes to solving something as large as 400 years of racism, is there a “win” whereby the movement would be able to say, we have achieved our goal?

KJ: The preacher in me wants to say that we are such a sin-filled country at this point that the end would look like the coming of the kingdom of God. That’s sort of a despairing response, though. On a more here-and-now note, I would say for me—black children growing up in a world where they aren’t afraid of being mistreated, that they have a level playing field, and that they never live with a fear that they aren’t receiving opportunities because of the color of their skin or ‘accident’ of birth—that’s the win.
Date night, job interviews, class presentations, Greek life functions. There are times during university life when the default 8:30 a.m. Monday morning class uniform (sweatpants, sneakers, and a T-shirt) just won’t cut it. From artists to accounting majors, we all find the need to dress to impress from time to time.

I kept my eye out for looks that not only aimed to impress, but also express the personality and perspective of the individual. Dressing to impress often implies a sense of formality; however, this is not always the case, especially within the creative community. These looks include an item chosen purposefully by the individual as a focal point that instills confidence in them when facing an uncertain or challenging situation.

In the words of renowned New York Times street photographer Bill Cunningham, “Fashion is the armor to survive everyday life.” The best part of the individuals I captured were their interpretations of impressive dress. Rather than demonstrating strict conformity, these looks capture how individuality and formality can coexist.
Make no mistake, the members of Furman’s Mock Trial team may not wear pads, but they are elite athletes who mean to crush you—eloquently.

Cage Match of the Mind
Furman’s Mock Trial Team A wasn’t surprised in the least to hear “Objection!” ring out across the United States District courtroom in Washington, DC, on a late November Sunday afternoon.

“It was Harvard, so…” says John Gillespie ‘18, a youthful looking sophomore with brown hair and a big smile, the words trailing off but the meaning clear: He and the rest of the Paladins weren’t exactly going against a bunch of nitwits at the Great American Mock Trial Tournament hosted by the University of Virginia.

Harvard, the defending Mock Trial national champion, knew as well as the Paladins did that there was a chance the presiding judge could strike some of the cross examination by Liam Simkins-Walker ‘18 of a key defense witness—and the Crimson competitors had nothing to lose and everything to gain by swinging for the fences.

It’s doubtful, however, that even Harvard dared dream of such a mammoth home run as its objections were sustained to the point where seemingly nothing Simkins-Walker’s witness could say would be admissible. Team A’s case had been turned on its head, and every set of eyes in the room—including those of the three scoring judges—rested on Simkins-Walker as he teetered on the edge of a legal cliff reaching for a lifeline only his wits could throw.

Welcome to collegiate Mock Trial, where law meets sport meets theatre and the fierce desire to win is as real as the case is not—and Furman is as good as anybody in the country.
nationwide—look like actual attorneys, and when the legal-ese starts flying, they sound like them, too.

They’re there to argue—and argue and argue—a fictional case set forth by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA), which this year created “State of Midlands vs. Avery Bancroft and Chase Covington,” a case that examines whether an invented Avery Bancroft offered a bribe to an invented Chase Covington for the benefit of Bancroft’s casino. Sometimes schools are the prosecution (the State of Midlands), and sometimes they’re the defense (either Bancroft or Covington). There are 11 potential witnesses, but before every round a random three are specified as eligible to be called. The competitions quickly take on a Groundhog Day feel as teams dive headlong into the same scenario four or more times per weekend, obsessing over minutia in hopes of working their way to the ultimate goal: a trip to the national tournament.

What makes Mock Trial such an odyssey of the mind is that every eventuality must be explored and prepared for, so in that sense Harvard did Simkins-Walker—who is considered by teammates and coaches to be the resident legal authority among legal authorities—a favor. At the very least, the math major will not fail to heed future warnings from Alynna Knaub ’18, who before the match told her teammate she was worried about a repeat of an earlier competition when some objections to this witness’s testimony had been sustained.

“I kind of said, ‘I don’t think it’s gonna get stricken,’” Simkins-Walker says a few weeks later in the safety of a Johns Hall classroom. “I [didn’t] see that as a problem. To me it [was] obviously relevant. I guess I learned from my mistake.”

For the judge presiding over Furman’s match with Harvard, the testimony of the fictional witness J.D. Lorean was not only “not obviously relevant,” but not relevant at all. He ruled that Lorean’s status as a “former FBI agent” didn’t qualify her as an expert to testify on whether or not the Midlands police had documented its evidence properly, and just like that, what had been a standard direct examination suddenly became a desperate quest to salvage anything at all for the record.
Mock Trial coaches, many of whom are attorneys, tell you these things can happen, but knowing sudden chaos is possible isn’t the same as sudden chaos. Total failure is what Simkins-Walker was facing, which is the equivalent of striking out with the bases loaded or forgetting your lines during a touring musical. Either metaphor will do when dealing with a decidedly peculiar competitive activity Furman team founder and Professor Glen Halva-Neubauer only half-jokingly refers to as “forensic ice skating.”

As authentic as things seem from the uncomfortable wooden spectator benches where friends and admiring parents gather, the fact that this is a case that is not a real case, being tried by attorneys who aren’t actually real attorneys, only scratches the surface of the fantasy world that Mock Trial creates. Although the students portraying legal counsel are still more or less themselves as they impersonate the lawyers they often aspire to be, the same can’t be said of the “witnesses,” who truly put the “mock” in Mock Trial.

Outside of provided AMTA witness bios, which sometimes consist of a single word beside unisex names, Mock Trial witnesses are entirely the result of every team’s imagination—and the acting ability of the men or women chosen to portray them. Their performance is every bit as important as opening statements or cross examinations to the team’s score.

“It’s not what you say. It’s how you say it,” says Shannon Cherney ’18. “And so after eight months of trying the same case you know what you’re saying, and then it goes to the best orators, who has the best rhetoric, who has the fanciest demonstratives.”

That’s why Furman uses professional acting coaches in addition to its rotating crew of five to 10 volunteer attorneys. It was also why Knaub had as much reason to be worried as Simkins-Walker about Lorean’s testimony: She was Lorean.

One role filled by Gillespie (he of the big smile) is to bring the thespian chops. In this case, it was his responsibility to embody Ali Thomas, the “dealer at the Black Bear” casino, which he accomplishes largely through use of a south-Georgia drawl that routinely elicits compliments and high numbers on scorecards—especially in places where Georgia drawls are considered exotic.
“One of the biggest things in Mock Trial...is authenticity,” says Gillespie—a veteran of theatre since elementary school in North Augusta, SC—in that same south-Georgia drawl, without a trace of irony. “So you have to get up there and you have to play a realistic witness that you would see on the stand if you walked into the Greenville County courthouse. From what we’ve seen, (the accent) scores better in other regions besides the South, because in the South it’s not really like you’re playing a character at all.”

If it’s starting to sound like the point of Mock Trial isn’t actually to win the trial, that’s because it isn’t. No verdicts are given, which Halva-Neubauer thinks isn’t always for the best. “There’s a part of me that does not like this because it encourages students to call witnesses and create case theories that would never be employed in real life when a client's freedom or resources were on the line,” he says.

Convincing simulation is the real name of the game, which is won by accumulating more points than the other side on highly subjective score cards that rate, on a scale of 0 to 10, legal arguments, examinations, and, for lack of a better term, acting performance while giving testimony. There’s even a home-court advantage. “When they get to a different jurisdiction, how much aggression should you use on cross-examination? That’s a big legal culture difference,” Halva-Neubauer explains. “If we’re in New York, we are going to be far more aggressive than anything we would try here in Greenville.”

That means ultimate Mock Trial success doesn’t come simply from being the best memorizers of case law or most eager debaters or liveliest entertainers. It comes from being all three. “When you get to the highest levels, every single element has to be almost perfected,” says Nathan Thompson ’16. “You’ll see teams that have extremely strong case theories, complete mastery of case law and rules of evidence, but then they also have characters.”

Cherney got into Mock Trial in the sixth grade because she thought it was theatre. She can give a mean closing argument but really excels at playing witnesses like Bancroft and Thomas. “My favorite thing in the world with Mock Trial is to be a witness,” she says. “Witnesses only talk for about 20 minutes...but I really appreciate a good witness as an attorney, and as a witness I feel a lot of pressure because attorneys just match points. Witnesses have the ability to win rounds.”

Simkins-Walker, on the other hand, has zero interest in pretending to be someone else. “I have absolutely no experience with theatre. I could never play a crying witness. I could never pull off the Southern accents that John does on the stand,” the Atlanta native says. “I really like the logic that’s involved. Given my math background, that really appeals to me. I know my team knows me as the evidence guy.”

People with specialized skills that were honed in increasingly serious high school Mock Trial programs have become very desirable to their college counterparts, and Halva-Neubauer figured out a long time ago not enough of them were walking the halls at Furman. Recruiting talented students became not only a way for Halva-Neubauer to elevate his teams, but also to fulfill what could easily be seen
Notes from the Field

as his “life calling.”

Indeed, behind all of this collective and channeled hyper-eloquence within Furman’s cadre of Mock “Tri- alers,” is the man they affectionately call “HN.” This year, Furman has nearly 40 Mock Trial competitors, enough for four teams. Team A—known as 584 to the rest of the country—was ranked 10th in the nation heading into February, and most of its members wouldn’t be at Furman if not for the Mock Trial scholarships Furman allowed Halva-Neubauer to begin awarding four years ago.

“The students in DC, I recruited the heck out of them to get them here,” Halva-Neubauer says. “It was hours of work in 2014 to get this remarkable group that is our sophomores. We can’t compete if we don’t get these good high school kids. We’re just too small.”

As Furman’s Dana Professor of Political Science, it’s not like Halva-Neubauer doesn’t have a life outside of Mock Trial. It’s just that nobody is quite sure when he lives it.

“I met him long before I actually came here and knew that I was going to come here,” says Cherney with a laugh. “He was the Mock Trial man who always had a table set up and wanted to talk to you about Furman Mock Trial.”

“I have never met a man who has poured so much of himself into something that he gains absolutely nothing from. He does it solely for the students,” adds Samin Mossavi ’17. “I know that if I ever have a problem or question I can go to him, and he will do his best to help. There is not a single person in our program that will disagree with that.”

A recent interview with Halva-Neubauer about Mock Trial first hit 30 minutes, then an hour, then two before it ended. His knowledge is surpassed only by an enthusiasm tinged with a bit of nervous energy. HN wants people to know Mock Trial is about more than winning, or at least it should be.

“There’s a fine line, because on the one hand I’m a competitor, these kids are competitors,” he says, “and I don’t think we ever want to say that’s not one of the strengths of the activity. But on the other hand, I think there’s something different about Mock Trial from an athletic activity or a sport.”

Halva-Neubauer loathes the team cheers many schools have adopted as pre-match rituals, for example. He notes, incredulously, he once saw a student have to be carried out of a courthouse on a stretcher because of an injury suffered during a particularly enthusiastic version of this phenomenon.

“I’m like, no! You are pursuing justice...You have clients on the line,” he says. “They may be mythical, but this is the pursuit of justice. There is nothing about getting pumped up to go and do this. This is not winning a rugby contest.”

Still, Mock Trial does give trophies. A wall in the political science department dedicated to those awarded to HN’s squads over the years will attest to this, and the C team added another when it captured the 11th annual Ramblin’ Wreck Tournament.
in January in Atlanta, marking the first time Furman had won a tournament in more than two years.

The competition featured less than half of its scheduled field because of a snowstorm, but that didn’t lessen the sense of accomplishment for the students involved, who were clear that reaching No. 1 was on their list of motivations.

“It was a big deal for us, especially being the C team. It was really nice,” says Hannah Dubois ’17, who received an Outstanding Attorney award. “We win a lot of trophies, but winning a lot of tournaments is something that we haven’t been able to do in a while.”

And with that you start to see the straw that stirs this strange cocktail of intellectuals, artists, and athletes: It is the primal thrill of beating someone else. Like Thompson, Julia Reynolds ’17 was a high-level runner in high school, while Ben Longnecker ’17 came to Furman to play on the lacrosse team.

“The competition for me is definitely a big part of it,” Simkins-Walker says. “Probably most of us in Mock Trial are super-competitive people, and this is how we channel that.”

After Atlanta, the focus of that energy was directed toward the goal of keeping Furman’s run of 19 consecutive trips to the National Championship Tournament alive. The pressure was magnified by Furman hosting the most important Mock Trial tournament of all for the first time this April, culminating years of hard work by Halva-Neubauer that began in 2006.

“We’re the second host that didn’t have a law school, and (Greenville is) by far the smallest place that’s ever attempted to host the championship,” he says, attributing the AMTA awarding the championship—which brought a thousand people to Greenville—to Furman’s reputation, its tradition of outstanding teams, and a long history of hosting well-run regional qualifier tournaments.

“Somehow Dr. Halva-Neubauer was able to find funding for us to travel all over the country. We had everything we needed. There was never a question,” David Koysza ’01, now a member of Boeing’s legal team, says. “I know for a

Notes from the Field

LEGAL EASE

Constant adjustments, recalibrations, and in-the-moment thinking help hone qualities that matter long past any Mock Trial tournament. Here, Harvey, Temple, and Ben Longnecker ’17 hash out their approach.

“MOST OF US IN MOCK TRIAL ARE SUPER-COMPETITIVE PEOPLE, AND THIS IS HOW WE CHANNEL THAT.”
KBBE my lifelong friends.”

Koysza remembers early in his freshman year pondering whether to try out for Mock Trial or go to the kickoff for Sigma Chi rush. Nerd club or frat guy. Hours working as a team with people with whom you may otherwise have nothing in common, or hours partying with people picked because they’re most like you.

It was a tough call then. It wouldn’t be now. “I chose Mock Trial and never looked back,” he says. “I learned more from Mock Trial than I did from any class or any other activity in college and law school. I use it more every day…It really meant that much to me.”

Nearly two decades later, it’d be hard to give nerd club a higher score than that.

That may or may not be because of what Mock Trial taught him. “You learn that a lot of court in real life is as much theatre as it is law. It’s sort of a frightening and helpful thing to think about,” he says. “You’d like to think justice is completely blind, and whoever is telling the truth wins in court. But a lot of times it’s really a matter of whoever’s attorney is better and what mood the jury is in that day.”

Thompson is headed to the London School of Economics next year to pursue a master’s degree in international relations and has no plans to be an attorney.

Back in DC, it may have looked like a disaster to the uninitiated as Simkins-Walker endured uncomfortable silences and repeated admonishments from the judge during his struggle to find a chink in Harvard’s fusillade of objections. But you don’t always need a walk-off home run. Sometimes a sacrifice fly will do, and on the final scoreboard Furman ended up winning the round on two out of three cards on its way to finishing ninth in a field that included the likes of Duke, Baylor, Columbia, Miami of Ohio, Princeton, California, UCLA, and Vanderbilt.

“Liam, I think, artfully kept trying to get around back to having the witness say something, because you can’t just stop the questions and sit down. That is awful. That’s a big no-no,” Cherney says. “So, he was trying his best, and I know this because I know Liam. His gears were turning to figure out something to have her say.”

“[Mock Trial] teaches you to formulate arguments in the heat of the moment and to learn that if something doesn’t go your way, then it’s not the end of the world. Things like that happen,” Simkins-Walker says, which is an actual-world lesson.

It’s not the only one.

Thompson is headed to the London School of Economics next year to pursue a master’s degree in international relations and has no plans to be an attorney.

Notes from the Field

MOCK STARS

Furman’s C Team learns about their win at the Ramblin’ Wreck Tournament in Atlanta in January.
SOME EARTHLY IDEA

FOOD AND THE HEALTH OF OUR SOCIETY ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED. ONE SOCIOLOGIST GOES BACK TO HIS ROOTS TO FIND OUT HOW WE CAN SOLVE WHERE THOSE DISCONNECT.

BY KEN KOLB
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEREMY FLEMING
I was in Paraguay, I was barefoot, and I was frustrated. So was Epifanio, my 13-year-old neighbor. To him, planting beans shouldn’t be this hard. He took a deep breath and told me to watch his feet.

Epifanio straddled the freshly tilled row of red dirt and slowly (for my benefit) picked up his right foot. He then knifed his toe into the center of the mounded soil, creating a two-inch depression. Returning to his wide stance, he plucked a seed from the makeshift T-shirt basket folded against his abdomen. He dropped the seed in the hole and picked up his left foot. With a sweeping motion, he covered the seed and patted it down. He looked over his shoulder as if to say, “Got it?”

I responded with a half-hearted iporã—Guarani for “good” or “okay”—and watched him as he picked up the pace. I tried to memorize the sequence: right foot, toe punch, seed drop; left foot, sweep, pat; repeat. Sounds simple, right?

This was one food-related puzzle I never solved. Fifteen years later, it still bugs me.

That afternoon in 2001, Epifanio finished three rows before I was halfway through my first. Later, I learned that his older brother went back that evening and replanted my row altogether. I left Paraguay two years later after finishing my stint in the Peace Corps. When I returned to the United States, I shelved my interest in food and agriculture.

Between then and now, I became a sociologist. My job is to teach students how to analyze social phenomena. Like Epifanio, I try to teach by example: showing them how a sociologist conducts research in the field.

One of those research projects was a 10-year study of workers who help victims of domestic violence. Why do people choose to do such emotionally draining work, I wondered? By 2014, I had answered that question—and the questions it provoked—as best I could, culminating in my book, *Moral Wages: The Emotional Dilemmas of Victim Advocacy and Counseling*. When 2014 became 2015, I realized it was time to formulate a new question that could lead to a different quest.

I’m not sure if it was the nagging sensation that I could have—should have—learned more in Paraguay. Maybe it was the desire to research something more simple and basic. Maybe it was memories of Epifanio. Whatever the reason, I felt drawn back to the issue that had been the sole focus of my life in South America and a lingering one in my life beyond it: food.
On fertile ground: Kolb’s time at Greenbrier Farms in Dacusville, SC, helped him unearth the causes and effects of America’s problem with food deserts.
Americans have a paradoxical relationship with food. Food insecurity is real, but few people in this country die from not having enough. Instead, the opposite is true: The health of many people suffers as a result of consuming too much food, or more accurately, too much unhealthy food. We have come to a strange point in our history: Those who have the least weigh the most. According to James Levine of the Mayo Clinic, Americans living in the 100 poorest counties are 34 percent more likely to be obese—and 60 percent more likely to have diabetes—than those living in the 100 wealthiest counties.

How did it come to this? What is the relationship between poverty, food access, and health? And would getting at the foundation of these problems prove foundational in solving the many societal challenges an unhealthy diet influences? I may not have been able to plant beans with my bare feet, but answering these questions was something I was trained to do.

I am not the first to tackle this subject, of course. For the past 25 years, researchers have produced an entire subfield of scholarship on what are called “food deserts.” Coined in the 1990s, the term “food desert” refers to neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, low rates of access to transportation, and few grocery stores. The USDA has very precise definitions for urban and rural settings, “food desert” refers to neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, low rates of access to transportation, and few grocery stores. The USDA has very precise definitions for urban and rural settings, but the basic concept is clear: Poor people—often without cars—are having trouble getting healthy food because none is being sold near them. What these areas have instead are the cheaper and unhealthier alternatives we know we should avoid: fast-food outlets and convenience stores.

Over the years, as the scholarship has evolved, it has become conventional wisdom among public health scholars that a lack of access to good food is a significant contributor to the poor health of impoverished neighborhoods. To fix the problem, a number of initiatives have been put in motion.

First, there was a movement to subsidize grocery store construction in underserved areas. Then, public health programs began teaching convenience stores to feature fresher items. Soon after, nonprofits started educating consumers on how to purchase and prepare healthier items. More recently, community leaders have cut out the middleman and gotten farmers to sell directly to neighborhoods via mobile farmer’s markets and urban farms.

In the past decade, hundreds of millions of dollars in the form of governmental tax credits, grants, loans, and guarantees have been put toward solving the food desert problem. New grocery stores have broken ground. Bodega owners have put bananas by the register. Crisp lettuce is being trucked to street corners, where it hasn’t been sold in decades.

These initiatives haven’t all come from taxpayer money. The private sector has played a significant role. Major retailers like Walgreens and Wal-Mart have pledged to increase offerings of healthier items at existing stores and build new locations in less affluent areas.

Together, academics, politicians, and policymakers have put together solid proposals, and through public and private campaigns, educational programs, and alternative distribution models, success looked like it was right around the corner. It all seemed so obvious: If we made affordable, culturally appropriate, healthy food available in these neighborhoods, people would change the way they eat.

But it hasn’t worked out that way. As it turns out, getting people to eat better involves more than just building grocery stores near them.

The first hint of this was made clear in a Philadelphia study after a new supermarket had been built in a food desert. The supermarket was lauded as improving access to fresh fruits and vegetables to an estimated 500,000 children and adults. The only problem was that making something available to someone didn’t guarantee that they would use it.

To measure the effectiveness of putting the Philadelphia store in the middle of a food desert, Steven Cummins, a public health scholar who has studied food deserts for 15 years, surveyed residents before and after the grocery store opened to see if any changes occurred. The first indications were positive. More than half the residents in the area reported shopping at the store after it opened, and those living near the store also reported feeling like they had more choice when it came to fruits and vegetables. These changes in perception did not lead to changes in diet, however. In his report, Cummins found that “few residents adopted the new supermarket as their main food store, and exposure to [it] had no statistically significant impact on [body mass index] or daily fruit and vegetable intake.”

In 2012, a study of schoolchildren’s diets in California found a similar pattern. In that investigation, parents were asked to report all the different kinds of food their children had eaten the day before. The questions were relatively simple, like, “How many glasses of milk did your child drink yesterday?” The researchers also knew where these families lived, so they could count how many supermarkets and fast food outlets were within a 10- or 20-minute walk of their houses. What they found was that kids who lived closer to grocery stores were not fed significantly healthier foods than kids who lived farther way. Similarly, kids who lived closer to fast-food chains did not eat more fast food, either.

Both these studies called into question one of the central premises of the food desert debate—namely, that geography determines diet. Unfortunately, when it comes to food, we aren’t always rational beings.

This point was made clear in a 2015 study by public health investigators in Pittsburgh about how and where food desert residents shopped. They found that only 24 percent of neighborhood residents shopped at their nearest full-service grocery store. The rest traveled nearly twice as far to shop at other grocery stores or specialty shops.

What began to dawn on me were two things: One, when it comes to distance and quality food, we may need to rethink our assumptions; and two, that rethinking should start where my interest in the subject had begun in the first place.
Organic farms like Greenbrier are often mentioned as the solution to food deserts, but such ideas might be too simplistic.

Fifteen years and more than 4,000 miles after my barefoot failure in Paraguay, I found myself back on dirt. Greenbrier Farms is located in Dacusville, SC, about 20 minutes from Furman. It is expansive, but the rolling topography keeps much of it from view. Just when you think you’ve seen all of it, you crest a hill and a new landscape spreads out before you. On a warm morning last spring, I laced up my work boots and started looking for answers.

One thing I had noticed when I began my journey to figure out the food desert problem was a missing voice in the conversation: farmers. Nutritional scholars have gone to great lengths to measure what people eat, where, and how, but what about the people who do the planting, pruning, and picking? Surely, they would be able to provide critical insights. To find those out, I knew I would have to gain their trust, and the best way I knew how to do that was to work alongside them (for free). It was only fitting that my first job was to plant beans.

The Hatfield Transplanter is an impressive—yet simple—piece of mechanical ingenuity. A V-shaped device, it is operated by two, waist-high, bicycle-grip handles. The user drives it into the ground to cut a perfectly square divot. This was Steve’s job. A 20-year-old intern at Greenbrier, he found working on a farm much more rewarding than his previous landscaping job, where he spent 10 hours a day on the vibrating end of a Weedwacker or with a four-gallon sprayer filled with Roundup strapped to his back.

My job was to follow Steve with a bucket of fishy-smelling chemical-free fertilizer. Inside the transplanter is a long funnel, and after Steve punched it into the ground, I poured a quarter cup of black grains down its funnel. From there, Steve would move 18 inches down the row, and Harry—his earbuds buzzing music from his smartphone—would plant a seed and tamp soft dirt on top of it. Technically, it was possible to drop a seed or seedling down the transplanter’s shoot, but sometimes they get stuck or planted too deeply. If you have enough time and people, it’s a job better done by hand.

One seed, three people. Epifanio might have been surprised, but this was labor-intensive, small-scale, organic farming as it is done in the United States today. Steve, Harry, and I did this for three hours; I didn’t screw up too often.

I spent two more weeks working full time at Greenbrier. In the middle of a stretch of summer heat, I came back and did another week. Last fall, I visited one last time to see how they were wrapping up the season. During my stays, I tried my hand at everything they would let me do. I fed pigs, corralled cattle, drove tomato stakes, and labeled seedlings. I learned that much of the work of local farms like Greenbrier does not take place on dirt.

People come from all over upstate South Carolina to see the
the beauty of Greenbrier. Weddings reserve their clovered fields a year in advance and chefs rent their kitchen to host “farm to fork” dinners. Visiting the farm is a way for consumers to see the origins of their food without a cellophane filter. The venue is both a workplace and a local laboratory.

When customers come to Greenbrier’s stall at a farmer’s market, they want more than just an heirloom tomato; they want its biography. When I told customers that I had handpicked their kale only 16 hours earlier, they bought an extra bunch. This was surprising to me until I realized I wasn’t just selling food. I was selling stories, too.

When I finished my stint at the farm, I came to respect the goals and priorities of local farmers. They want to make a living and to be good stewards of the land. Their concerns are both philosophical (is the “organic” certification process good for the consumer?) and mundane (will my cell phone get coverage in the greenhouse?). But, most of all, they want to do something with their lives that is as meaningful as it is simple: grow food.

How does this play into the food desert problem?

Farms like Greenbrier are often mentioned as the solution to the problem. Policymakers presume such local enterprises—and the local farmer’s markets where they offer their wares—will significantly increase consumption of fruits and vegetables in underserved areas. But talking with Chad Bishop, co-owner of Greenbrier, I learned that improving diets in poorer neighborhoods is not something that small organic farmers are equipped to do.

Small-scale organic farming can deliver a product of exquisite size and quality. One morning at Greenbrier, working alongside Steve and Harry, I selectively cut leaves of organic collards with a short serrated harvest knife. We bunched them by hand to assure uniform size and quality. When we finished, we dunked them in a tub filled with cold water right by the field. We gently boxed them up, cool and crisp.

We started at sunrise. By sunset, they were being plated at a farm-to-table restaurant in downtown Greenville.

Local farms like Greenbrier can do incredible things like this, but taking the place of produce sections in full-service grocery stores is not one of them. To make a living, Bishop is bound to the demands and tastes of a high-end market. He wishes he could get everyone to eat better, but he has bills to pay. While planting cucumber seeds into starter trays one afternoon, he shook his head, “I can’t compete against a one-dollar cheeseburger; I just can’t do it.” Such a simple statement, but it effectively sums up the past three years of research on urban food environments.

In response to this reality, in March of 2015, the USDA awarded $31 million in grants to subsidize innovative solutions like “double up” farmer’s market coupons for low-income shoppers and mobile farmers that would bring produce to the people. Focus groups of participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in an urban community in Oklahoma, however, found that farmer’s markets were still perceived as too expensive and impractical. Most expressed a desire to do all of their shopping in one trip. Mobile farmer’s markets addressed some of these concerns, but they were still a seasonal enterprise. Even if they work, they end at first frost.

If these ideas—which looked so good on paper—failed, how might they be adjusted to foster real solutions?

Those answers, I believed, could be found by taking the next step in my research: bringing the knowledge I had learned at the farm to those we talk about when we talk about food deserts—the people who live in them.

Ultimately what we need is an economic model to match a new story about our values around food and health.

Surprisingly, there is very little research on the actual residents of food deserts. I’m not talking about counting check marks on surveys, or calculating average rates of diabetes within a two-mile radius. I’m talking about sitting down with actual human beings and having honest conversations. Understanding their stories.

Greenville, in spite of its recent acclaim as a great small city and Southern oasis, has a number of areas officially classified as food deserts. Working with local neighborhood associations, I arranged hour-long interviews with 100 residents in the Southernside and West Greenville communities. My questions were straightforward: Where do you get your groceries? How do you get there? How do you make $21 meals a week work?

These discussions in living rooms and around kitchen tables illuminated a number of things. For one, I found that grocery stores and corner markets used to thrive in Southernside and West Greenville. At neighborhood meetings and during the summer fish fry, I set up a large map of the neighborhoods and had longtime residents circle intersections where small stores used to be located. They identified more than 30 that had existed at some point in the last 50 years. Today, however, finding so much as a single fresh cucumber is a real challenge. The last major supermarkets moved out more than two decades ago, and all that is left are a few convenience and dollar stores lingering on the edges.

When politicians and pundits talk about food deserts, they are talking about places like Southernside and West Greenville. Predominantly African-American, these communities have higher rates of unemployment and poverty than other parts of Greenville. To make matters more difficult, these neighborhoods have the largest percentages of households without access to a car than anywhere else in the city.

Speaking to their residents, however, I learned there is more to buying food than proximity and price. The number of people inside the house matters, too. People who live alone, single mothers, and retired emptynesters see the grocery store very differently than those with multiple mouths to feed. In many cases, those I spoke to who lived in small households didn’t see the benefits of buying raw ingredients and preparing big meals. The expiration dates on fresh vegetables loomed larger for them than they did for bigger families. That’s important because when policymakers talk about impediments to healthy eating, they almost always fixate on distance. It is household size, however, that plays a significant role in how often residents of food deserts prepare meals from groceries.

Since the 1950s, the average household size in the United States has dropped from 3.5 to 2.5 persons. The percentage of people living alone during that time has also doubled. In short, we are living with fewer and fewer people, and this is affecting the way we eat.
When you talk to real people grappling with food access issues, decisions about making meals at home aren’t theoretical exercises. They are grounded in practicality. For a family of four, a big meal (with a round of leftovers) that can fill eight bowls over two days is worth the effort involved in arranging a trip to the grocery store and spending an hour at the sink washing dishes. For someone living alone, though, the traditional supermarket model of cooking at home may no longer apply.

Food preparation works best when you can divide the labor. One person brings home the groceries, the other stores them in the cupboards. One person cooks, the other cleans. When you live alone, you do it all. When I interviewed Rene Blanton, the vice president of the Southernside neighborhood association, she explained how her mealtime decisions mostly revolved around the obligations of her job. The appeal of leftovers waned if she knew that lunch would be offered at a training session the next day. Conversely, passing a grocery store on the way to an off-site meeting might spark ideas about a meal to cook that night. When deciding whether to cook at home or eat out, she explained distance wasn’t the primary issue. Instead, “it would all depend on how busy I had been at work.”

This is what scholars of the food desert miss when they don’t talk to the people who reside within them. If they had spent more time at kitchen tables, they would know that when you shop and cook for yourself, the meaning of food changes. Two late meetings in a row and the once-fresh greens in the fridge have transformed from an aspiration into a race against time.

What this means for those trying to solve the food desert problem is that, first and foremost, we need to recognize that the shrinking size of American households has fundamentally changed the calculus of whether the time and energy put into acquiring and cooking raw ingredients is still worth the investment. Here’s an amazing statistic: 2014 marked the first year in history that spending at grocery stores was eclipsed by that at restaurants and bars. That trend is not going to reverse itself anytime soon.

During my research with food desert residents, I also learned that grocery stores mean more to communities than the products they sell. Dollar stores signal desperation; full-service grocery stores that butcher meat and fill prescriptions indicate a neighborhood worthy of respect. The residents I interviewed in Southernside and West Greenville desperately wanted grocery stores in their neighborhoods. Although they admitted that having a store close would not likely change the foods they liked to eat, they were sure it would improve their quality of life. Consider, for instance, the time and effort put into arranging rides to the store if you don’t own a vehicle. That will weigh on you and influence where you choose to shop. Getting groceries shouldn’t be a marathon, and time spent traversing a parking lot to wait in a bus shelter is time lost with family and friends. Even if putting grocery stores in food deserts doesn’t dramatically change the way people eat, they are still vital community resources that can significantly affect lifestyle.

The value of a local grocery store is tangible in other ways, too. Economically, they employ people and keep retail dollars in the community. Socially, they serve as a nexus for people to stay in touch with their neighbors. Symbolically, they serve as indicators of a neighborhood’s value. Having a grocery store nearby means living in a place worth caring about.
meal preparation. To get people to start making their own meals, we need to trim the fat from the long list of tasks of cooking, making it efficient enough so that their plans to cook dinner at home don’t get derailed the next time they have to stay late at the office. Doing so would acknowledge that our problem with food is not just that we are starved for healthy options, but that we are starved for time. Reducing prices and shrinking distances is not enough, we’ve got to find a way to speed up the process. That is the pathway to healthier eating; first show people it is possible given the time they have, and then ask them to look for ways to make more time for it.

Lastly, and most importantly, if we want to solve the food desert problem for those most at risk, we’ve got to spend more time talking to the people who live in them and the people who grow the food they eat. Both have a rhythm to their lives that involves more than just proximity and price. Eating, after all, is a pattern—perhaps the most primal one of our lives. It is a drumbeat that taps in relation to our work, our homes, our families, and our geographic location. We can’t expect to understand it by asking people to fill out a quick survey.

Epifanio had a rhythm. I thought I could replicate it in an afternoon. I couldn’t. Years of muscle memory can’t be acquired that fast. Now I know to be patient. Now I know it will take years. And it all starts with a simple question, “When was the last time you cooked a meal?”

Ken Kolb is an associate professor of sociology at Furman. His research on food systems is funded by The Duke Endowment and The David E. Shi Center for Sustainability.
A winter rehearsal of Furman’s orchestra in an empty McAllister Auditorium
It has many names—the magic hour, the golden hour, l’heure bleu, the gloaming—but that interval of time when the sun lowers and the day is on the verge of night is nature’s canvas. We asked our photographer to use his camera—and its many f-stop settings—to capture that canvas as it emerged on Furman’s campus during this liminal hour, on the transition between the seasons.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEREMY FLEMING ’09
To walk—for most of us, it is one of our first laudable acts. As babies, we totter, stumble, and struggle to stay upright until that milestone moment where one foot is placed in front of the other, then again (and again), as rhythmic as breath.

It is no coincidence that many spiritual thinkers regard walking, with its similar cadence, as an outward manifestation of the breath. And like breathing, walking can feel as primal. We walk to get somewhere, we walk to leave somewhere; we walk to decipher a problem, we walk to weigh an answer.

"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in," said the great naturalist John Muir. Even more existential, and more sobering, is Jean Cocteau’s take on walking: “Since the day of my birth, my death began its walk. It is walking toward me, without hurrying.”

4:18 PM: Inside the famous Bell Tower in late fall, regarding time in reverse
4:19 PM: A view of the chiming bells from below as they gong within the magic hour
4:33 PM: Painting the stadium lines
Walking is deceiving: its very minimalism frames all that can feel maximal in our lives with relieving simplicity.
How a person walks—hurried, languorous, or buoyant; in tempos that define a saunter, an amble, a traipse, a lumber, or a strut—tells us a lot about that person. Walking is mood; it is disposition. We are as we go.

Then there are the types of walks we engage in: the dog walk, the nature walk, the walks to raise money, the walks of shame, the walks that walk the talk, the pilgrimage.

Lately, pilgrimages have become something of a minor rage, as chronicled in the books Wild by Cheryl Strayed (1,100 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail), A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson (the Appalachian Trail, more than 2,000 miles), or in the films The Way (the
Camino de Santiago) and *The Revenant* (America’s wild frontier).

Pilgrimages, by their very definition, are spiritual in nature—the pilgrimage to Jerusalem or Mecca or Lourdes—and are often endeavored with healing, renewal, or penance in mind. No matter what the catharsis is, though, they all depend on footsteps. Imagine a pilgrimage without walking—it doesn’t fit, does it? You can’t quite absolve guilt or achieve renewal with a Sunday drive or a cruise around the world.

Even short walks, such as those people take through a labyrinth, may only last minutes, but because they assume the basic and redundant rhythms of right-left, right-left, they allow us to approach the complex with equanimity, to overlay what eludes us with an assured perspective that “it” will come.

Walking is deceiving: In its apparent mindlessness, it becomes a gateway to mindfulness; its very minimalism frames all that can feel maximal in our lives with relieving simplicity.

Walking need not happen in solitude, of course, but one of walking’s chief pleasures is how it can bridge the worlds of intimacy and anonymity.

There’s a word for this, courtesy of 19th-century French poet Charles Baudelaire, who popularized the idea of the flâneur, the “passionate spectator” or the “botanist of the sidewalk.” As he explains it:

“The crowd is [the flâneur’s] element, as the air is that of birds and water of fishes. His passion and his profession are to become one flesh with the crowd. For the perfect flâneur, it is an immense joy to set up house in the heart of the multitude, amid the ebb and flow of movement, in the midst of the fugitive and the infinite. To be away from home and yet to feel oneself everywhere at home; to see the world, to be at the center of the world, and yet to remain hidden from the world.”
Just before we are celebrated for taking our first steps, we experience another adulation: for our first words.

Interesting, that—how language and movement are what we admire so immediately in life. Consider human existence without words; then consider it without the possibility of movement.

Words are often what give our movements meaning; movement inspires new meanings that we make sense of in words, whether aloud or quietly to ourselves. Is it any surprise that the long march, home or away, becomes a motif in many works of literature?

Rebecca Solnit, who wrote the book *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*, argues that escape is one of the most significant of those motifs—in particular, for those who are downtrodden. For such individuals, walking becomes a powerful disassociation. In speaking about women in the novels of Jane Austen, Solnit writes, “Solitary walks express the independence that literally takes the heroine out of the social sphere of the houses and their inhabitants, into a larger, lonelier world where she is free to think: Walking articulates both physical and mental freedom.”

For anyone, walking can become a powerful moment of pause that we should perhaps assert more than we do. What if, before making decisions in boardrooms or living rooms, we all rose and took a walk. Would the better answers arrive better?

Scientists seem to think so. In a Stanford University study, researchers Marily Oppezzo and Daniel L. Schwartz found that walking “improves the generation of novel yet appropriate ideas, and the effect even extends to when people sit to do their creative work shortly after.”

Walking, the study showed, may help most with divergent thinking, or thinking that seeks out possibilities as opposed to choosing among predetermined ones (that ability is called “convergent thinking”).

Either way, Oppezzo and Schwartz observed that “while schools are cutting back on physical education in favor of seated academics, the neglect of the body in favor of the mind ignores their tight interdependence.” In an Information Age that fetishizes the screen but depends on creativity, that negligence might just be detrimental.

Of course, walking need not be empirically justified. Walking clears cobwebs, it invites a different kind of conversation with a companion, it sharpens our observation of the shocking quotidian—the acrid perfume of woodsmoke in winter; a night sky studded with lapidary constellations; the drift of conversation from an open window as it’s passed in summer. These are necessities in their own right. So necessary that some have even bemoaned our diminished affinity for “purposeless” or “observational” walking. What we could also call, “walking just because.” This erstwhile practice, these multi-degreed

4:30 PM: A student from Furman’s lifelong learning program 4:10 PM: A dining hall chef carves meat for a winter dinner 4:14 PM: A rare snow falls in early spring near the James B. Duke Library
What happens in the magic hour is often as beautiful as the idea of a magic hour.

INTERESTING, THAT—HOW LANGUAGE AND MOVEMENT ARE WHAT WE ADMIRE SO IMMEDIATELY IN LIFE.
lamenters claim, connects us with a type of wisdom that serves no purpose but makes room for all potential ones.

A college campus—often beautiful, ostensibly an environment designed for the generation of wisdom—is precisely the kind of place that should be walked. Its quadrangles and circles and gardens and forests and lakes and lawns, not to mention its interiors—those vaulted spaces everyone knows and the nooks only we do—beg for perambulation.

On a residential campus like Furman's, walking is actually the thing that connects the places which end up shaping us: the classroom, the dining hall, the dormitory, the field. Because walking is slower than most transportation but faster than sitting still, walking becomes the amber that encases our most arresting memories. Unwittingly, walking forms the texture beneath our memories, and when we return and walk the place again, we trace these memories in steps.

Those steps add up. That is what is beautiful about mileage, about age, about our discipline of rising and striding outward in order to summon those inward strides. We grow wiser. And ultimately, wisdom becomes its own origin of motion, propelling us ever more assuredly into steering our lives, qualifying us to be welcomed locomotion in the lives of others.

You might say the more we walk, the more we arrive at where we were always meant to go.

5:45 PM

A luminous aura surrounds a gateway into Furman's campus in early fall.
WALKING BECOMES THE AMBER THAT ENCASES OUR MOST ARRESTING MEMORIES. WE TRACE THESE MEMORIES IN STEPS.
The Comeback

The Family Plan

GREENVILLE PROVES THAT THERE’S NO APP FOR QUALITY TIME

BY BLAIR KNOBEL ’03
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TJ GETZ
Though the buzz of our smartphones may have replaced the dinner bell, Greenville still has homespun character, a two-lane Main Street where folks remember your name, and four seasons that offer pleasurable treks throughout the year. Savoring time together is not just important, it’s also easy in the Upstate. To do it well, here is a year’s worth of activities—some familiar that merit revisiting, and others under the radar that you and your family should try.

**SPRING**

Beyond the lure of Falls Park picnics, there is another green that’s worth your time. Heritage Green—the longtime location of Greenville Woman’s College (which merged with Furman University in the 1930s)—now provides a home for six institutions: the Children’s Museum, Greenville Little Theatre, Greenville County Museum of Art, the main branch of the Greenville County Library, Bob Jones Museum & Gallery, and the Upcountry History Museum.

You could spend your entire day on the Green, as locals call it, weaving in and out of the museums, the library, and catching a show at the Greenville Little Theatre, but I wouldn’t recommend it. After all, you need time to take in the thoughtful programming at each place (and room for that picnic).

Instead, spread the visits over the season, but start at the Upcountry History Museum, which is a Smithsonian affiliate and partner with Furman.

“History connects to just about everything—you can’t understand your community if you don’t know where it started from,” says Elizabeth Gunter, the museum’s director of programs and marketing. This spring, noted illustrator David Small will feature in an exhibit that is at once whimsical and satirical. “A David Small World” will showcase several works by the prolific artist, including art from the popular children’s book *My Senator and Me* by the late Senator Edward Kennedy.

As it happens, literacy is a main emphasis of the museum’s programming, which it incorporates through exhibits such as “Storyland,” coming to the museum this summer. “The exhibit will actually allow families to enter into the storybook world,” Gunter says, bringing Beatrix Potter, Peter Rabbit, and others to life. And on the first Sunday of every month, the museum hosts a Family Fun Day, which engages all ages in art projects, science experiments, and story time—interactive, hands-on activities that get young minds excited about learning. The museum also plans free Neighborhood Night programs every Thursday evening, from 5:30–8:30, with storytelling for children and literacy counsel for parents.

Above: Activities abound for families, including exhibits at Upcountry History Museum and the South Carolina Children’s Theatre.
FALL

Greenville’s proximity to the Blue Ridge Mountains demands a road trip. Driving north will deliver you to many a charming mountain town.

Head up Highway 276 to Caesars Head State Park and take in the fiery horizon at its popular lookout. On the way, stop at Slater Drug in Marietta for one of its famous milkshakes. Choose from 40 flavors, from the classics (add malt!) to the more adventurous: think birthday cake and bubblegum.

If you take the Highway 25 route, Saluda, Flat Rock, and Hendersonville in North Carolina beckon. Drive in the morning to Wildflour Bakery in Saluda for its legendary sticky buns, then make your way toward Flat Rock for Sky Top Orchard—not just for the expansive views or the 24 apple varieties or the petting zoo.

SUMMER

On any given summer Saturday at the Swamp Rabbit Café & Grocery, you’ll see a line of bikes parked at the rack outside, parents and kids milling about at the picnic tables, and young ones enjoying the playground under pecan trees.

To get there, take a ride—not on four wheels, but two. The GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail, now a 19.9-mile multi-use thoroughfare connecting Greenville Technical College to Travelers Rest, is a nearly perfect conduit for family activities from Falls Park to art galleries at Riverwalk (where kids can cool off at the trailside fountain, and you can enjoy a refreshing bubble tea from nearby O-CHA Tea Bar).

Continue on to the Swamp Rabbit Café, about two miles from downtown, to grab a scene, sandwich, or other café delight (you’ll find croissants and beyond—try the Brazilian pao de queijo or a Turkish pogacha). Older kids will probably be up for pedaling further to Furman, maybe for a picnic under the lake’s broad oaks, or even on to Travelers Rest for spectacular homemade ice cream at Sidewall Pizza.

If biking isn’t your thing, head to the TD Saturday Market to stock up on local produce and artisanal wares, then make your way to the steps of the new “literary hub,” M. Judson Booksellers and Storytellers where Story Time on the Steps takes place every day at 10:30 a.m., sharp. (The name M. Judson is a nod to namesake Mary Judson, the forward-thinking principal of Greenville Female College, who lived a modern life in a Victorian world.)

Cap off your day (remember the long daylight) at a Greenville Drive game, a member of the South Atlantic League and Class-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. Reward your adult self with a cold beer while watching your kids light up at the sight of the game-winning fireworks.

An alternative to Fluor Field is time at the family-friendly Quest Brewing Co., where lazy summer nights are best spent at their Thursday evening concert series. The brewery near the downtown Greenville airport keeps a varied selection on tap, including seasonal offerings. A food truck or two is usually parked out front to make for easy drinking (and dinner, of course).

Above: Gustatory pleasure in the form of family-friendly pizzas from Flat Rock Village Bakery and inventive ice cream flavors from Sidewall Pizza, best paired with a good book from M. Judson Booksellers.
If you want a more skates-on experience, **Ice on Main**, the city’s only open-air rink, will entertain all ages in downtown Greenville through January. The lawn at the Courtyard Marriott is transformed into a winter wonderland à la Rockefeller Center, complete with treats, coffee, and hot chocolate. For skating later in the year, the Greenville Rec’s Pavilion offers an enclosed rink, where instructors can help you stay upright.

After a day on the ice, or in lieu of it, make your way to the **South Carolina Children’s Theatre**. “We have something for ages 2 to 92 at SCCT,” says executive director Debbie Bell. The theatre’s 2nd Stage productions, which allow for intimate and lesser-known performances, are also home to programs related to social awareness.

Tell Me a Story Theatre, ongoing throughout the school year, brings your little ones (pre-K) into the mix, with a favorite tale read and acted out. At 30 minutes each, and one dollar per person, these shows are short and sweet, ideal for incorporating weekday variety and time well shared—the perfect antidote to our fast-paced lives.

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or the tractor rides. Go chiefly for the apple cider doughnuts. Stand in line. Get them hot from the fryer, dusted with sugar.

Of course, the doughnuts (and sticky buns) are merely a prelude to lunch at the **Flat Rock Village Bakery**, which is a short five-minute drive after you come down the hill from your apple-picking odyssey. The bakery crafts brick-oven pies bearing local ingredients (butternut squash and kale with roasted garlic, walnuts, mozzarella, goat cheese, and a balsamic drizzle is a favorite). Grab one to go and keep driving toward the **Blue Ridge Parkway** for its majestic views.

**WINTER**

Back in 2010, Greenville got a few degrees colder when The Greenville Road Warriors, the city’s first East Coast Hockey League team, took to the ice. Now, five years later, the team has a new owner and a new name—the **Greenville Swamp Rabbits**, a nod to the city’s current recreational path. Through April, the Swamp Rabbits, featuring a Kids Club with special offers and discounts, play at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena.
We asked Broadway actor Seph Stanek ’08 what works are currently inspiring him.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Seph Stanek ’08 studied voice performance at Furman and currently lives in New York City. He performs with the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, Light Opera of New York, and Ardea Arts, and has completed 10 Off-Broadway contracts, four concerts at Carnegie Hall, and several national tours. A frequent concert singer, Stanek’s recent performances include singing alongside Kristin Chenoweth with the Concert Pops of Long Island and performing for the Breast Cancer Foundation’s gala. Stanek will make his Broadway debut next year starring as The Scribe in Akhenaten the Musical. This year he produced a major benefit concert for 1996 Furman graduate Mary-Mitchell Campbell’s organization ASTEP (Artists Striving to End Poverty). For more information on Stanek, visit www.SephStanek.com or @SephStanek.
I recently performed a concert for the Egyptian Security Council and had the distinct honor of meeting Zahi Hawass, one of the world’s leading Egyptologists. I was able to pick his brain about Egypt’s “rebel king” Akhenaten in preparation for a role I am originating in the coming months. He gave me sound advice and made me promise to read this favorite book of his, Secrets from the Sand, in order to more fully understand the dynamics of the world I’ll be portraying in the show. When I began reading the book, I was instantly transported to my childhood fascination of Ancient Egypt and the great mysteries of this lost civilization; plus, with the Great Pyramids of Giza currently undergoing new structural investigations, this subject material is more relevant now than ever!

THE MIKADO
By W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

I’m fascinated by a current hot topic in the Broadway community centering around Gilbert and Sullivan’s opera The Mikado. The show, which first opened in 1885, is set in Japan, which allowed Gilbert and Sullivan to freely satirize Britain’s politics by disguising them as Japanese. Many contemporary critics believe the show is now considered racially insensitive toward the Asian community, using terms like “yellowface” to describe traditional makeup plots, costumes, and staging. As a frequent Gilbert and Sullivan performer, this controversy greatly affects my livelihood; it raises topics from my ethics classes I took at Furman, begging the questions: How has our perception of race evolved since Victorian England and is there a way to neutralize these accusations to save history’s most-performed musical? I was elected to be part of a committee to re-conceptualize the show with the Actors’ Equity Association in hopes of finding a happy balance to satisfy both views.
On October 8, 2015, they broke Congress. That was the day Representative Kevin McCarthy, unable to secure the 218 votes he needed to be elected Speaker of the House from his own party, announced he was withdrawing from the race.

Of course, anyone who has paid passing attention to the institution in recent years knows it’s dysfunctional. Typically, laments over Congress focus on partisanship and its close companion, gridlock—most recognizable perhaps in the constant threat of the Senate filibuster. And there is much handwringing over the persistently low approval ratings of Congress.

But partisanship is not new to Congress. Parties emerged in Congress shortly after the ink dried on the Constitution, and they were as polarized in the era following Reconstruction as they are today. The Senate filibuster has been possible since 1806, and until recently served as a rarely used safety net for the minority. And while low approval ratings merit concern, the idea of Congress has always been more popular than the actual practice of it, even among the founders. Although these issues contribute to and are evidence for the common perception of a government that is broken, that overall view is somewhat overdrawn.

The institution of Congress is still responsive to its constituents in some ways. Here, we begin to look at Congress in a place where we might expect it to be strong—outside Washington, DC. By focusing on the representation of Congress in the places where it has most influence, we get a more nuanced picture of the institution. We see that there is not just one Congress; there are multiple Congresses.
of Congressional dysfunction, they did not break Congress.

What broke Congress is found in the reason McCarthy could not gain enough votes from his own party. It’s the same reason John Boehner was forced out of the job. And contrary to claims that neither man was sufficiently conservative, it has little to do with ideology. By any objective measure of ideology, both men are staunch conservatives. They agreed with their fellow partisans on policy. But Boehner and McCarthy also acknowledged reality—Democrats held the presidency and enough seats in the Senate to block legislation. On basic government matters like passing a budget, the Republican leaders chose to be pragmatic and compromise on bills that moved at least incrementally in the direction they wanted. Ultimately, Boehner and McCarthy were pushed out because they were willing to do what Congress is supposed to do—govern.

Some in their party wanted them to fight for their preferred policies even if it meant shutting the government down. But to what end? There is no reason to believe the Senate or the president would have conceded to the House—they have constituents to represent, too. The only purpose served by shutting down the government was to draw clear distinctions between the parties in hopes of winning the next election. It’s a strategy that was introduced to Congress by former Speaker Newt Gingrich, and it helped lead Republicans to the majority in the House in 1994 after 40 years in the minority.

Alas, what is good for winning elections is not always good for governing, and even Gingrich compromised at times.

To understand the significance of what happened on October 8 requires us to look back at what the writers of the Constitution expected of the U.S. Congress.

In Federalist 10, James Madison extols the virtues of representative government over direct democracy. Chief among the benefits is the opportunity for deliberation among representatives of people who have different perspectives and interests. Madison’s hope is that as these representatives discuss policies, they will not merely parrot the voices of their constituents leaving the loudest to prevail, but rather they will “refine and enlarge the public views.”

The idea is that conversing with each other face to face will enable representatives to think beyond their own experiences and self-interest to see how the policies each prefers will affect people in different circumstances. The ultimate goal of this process is to articulate and pursue the national interest.

Congress is the primary vehicle for representation in the U.S. Constitution. It is also the lawmaking institution tasked with passing policies and budgets that allow the government to function.

Congressional scholars Roger Davidson and Walter Oleszek argue that inherent in the design and powers of Congress is a dual nature. On the one hand, Congress is a collection of individual members who need to represent their constituents and want to get reelected.

On the other, Congress is an institution with a responsibility to make policy and help solve problems that threaten the stability and general welfare of the nation. For that to happen, those individual members must work together, not just within their own house of Congress, but also with the other house and with the president, to discern from the disparate interests of their constituents what is in the national interest, and to craft policies and budgets that serve that greater interest.

Is the vision of the founders lofty? Indeed. Efficient? Hardly. Frustrating? Definitely. For 200 years, members of Congress have negotiated the tensions between representation and lawmaking. But the saga of Boehner and McCarthy reveals that Congress today has a significant number of members more interested in winning elections than accepting the realities required to govern. A Congress composed of members who are not open to understanding the other side, and perhaps being influenced by it, is a Congress incapable of deliberating, discerning the national interest, and ultimately governing. It is broken.

So, what can fix it?

Some may be tempted to suggest that the problem is Republicans; after all, this is happening in their party. But the problem isn’t ideology or party. Some conservative Republicans are quite pragmatic and have spoken out on the need to govern. The problem is strategy, and conservatives don’t have a monopoly on intransigence. If Democrats gained a majority in Congress, it’s not difficult to imagine a faction of progressives employing similar strategies.

The solution is a better understanding of the constitutional purpose of Congress and the diversity of opinion and circumstances of people around the country. Americans tend to surround themselves with people who think like them. Our actual and virtual lives gravitate to those who agree with us, leaving us with rather narrow perspectives. Those who want to persuade everyone to their view need to be in advocacy, not Congress.

Members of Congress need to voice citizens’ opinions but be open to expanding those views as they hear from others whose constituents have different experiences.

Refining and enlarging public opinion is not a one-way street. It requires both sides to accept that they might learn something from the other. Only when members accept that we can begin to fix Congress. Of course, members can only accept that if we constituents are willing to let them.

Now that I think about it, maybe we broke Congress.
1963

Graham Farrell was commissioned by the Furman music department to compose a work in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Hartness Organ, C.B. Fisk Opus 121 (2004). The work, A Gospel Pair, two duets for organ and violin based on the hymn tunes of William Bradbury (1816–1868), premiered in spring 2015 in Furman’s Daniel Chapel. It was dedicated to performers Charles Boyd Tompkins, organist; and Gregory Brampton Tompkins, violinist.

1968

Linda Carol Hayes Davis has co-founded the Chapel Hill (NC) Alliance for a Livable Town (CHALT). The organization’s mission is to promote responsive and accountable government that serves the public interest, and to elect town leaders who share CHALT’s values of managing growth responsibly, protecting the natural environment, creating affordable housing, promoting government transparency, wise management of town resources, and public schools of excellence. CHALT was successful in replacing the city’s incumbent mayor, who had not lost an election in 50 years, and two incumbent council members.

1970

Marla Hooper Dunham has been appointed to the board of the Alamance Community College Foundation in Graham, NC. The foundation provides financial aid and scholarships for students seeking higher education. Funds are provided for professional development and continuing education for faculty and staff at the school where Dunham had taught English for 21 years before her
Furman Across the Country

From The Holy City to Music City, Furman welcomed alums to events that reunited and inspired. This past fall, the Homecoming festivities took place the weekend of October 23–25, welcoming home reunion classes ending in “0” and “5.” The highlight of the weekend was the return of after-party tradition “Furman on Main” in downtown Greenville. Then, in November, Furman alumni, parents, and friends went “country” and enjoyed a one-of-a-kind evening at the Longhorn Acres Farm Estate in Nashville, home of Furman parents Andrea and Rick Carlton (Sam ’17). It was a night to remember for guests serenaded by famed songwriter and Furman parent Tom Douglas (Tommy ’17) and Friends. Not to be outdone, the holidays were made memorable with an evening of fun and fellowship at The Charleston Furman Holiday Party on December 3, 2015 at the historic William Aiken House in downtown Charleston.

1. Guests gathered for a candlelit meal in Nashville while enjoying the musical entertainment of famed songwriter Tom Douglas (Tommy ’17) and Friends.
2. Rivers Townes ’13, Jenn Griffith ’14, and John David Hunter ’13 at the Charleston Holiday Party.
3. Executive Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement Mike Wilson ’88, Lynda Panaretos, and Alexandra Panaretos ’18 in Charleston.
5. 2015 Homecoming Queen Katie Keith ’16 and King McLver Pricett ’16.
6. Connor Duggan ’09, Mary Lindley Carswell ’09, Kelly Boring ’11, Chad Boring ’11, and Alex Abrams ’14 enjoying the festivities in Music City.
7. A packed Paladin Stadium for the Homecoming football game.
member of the Senior Foreign Service who has served with the Department of State since 1981, Malac has been serving as U.S. ambassador to Liberia since 2012. Her new appointment will be ambassador to the Republic of Uganda. She previously served as director of the Office of East African Affairs, director of the Office of Career Development and Assignments, and deputy chief of mission at the United States embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Malac has served at posts in Cameroon, Senegal, South Africa, and Thailand. She was a distinguished graduate of the National Defense University, receiving a master’s degree in national resources strategy, after which she studied international law for a year at the University of Basel on a post-graduate fellowship under the auspices of the Fulbright Foundation.

1978

Carl E. “Trey” Carson III has recently been appointed as the assistant chief financial officer of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, responsible for the presentation and execution of the budgetary policy, law, and regulation for the Library. His career includes 21 years at the Pentagon in Washington, including financial management positions on the staffs of the secretary of defense, the director of Navy programming, the deputy undersecretary of defense for advanced systems and concepts, and the office of the Navy comptroller. Carson, a retired captain from the U.S. Navy, served on active duty for 26 years.

Edward Hammett, president of Transforming Solutions, LLC, had a new book released in November 2015. Reaching People Under 30 While Keeping People

Over 60: Creating Community Across Generations addressed two of the most pressing issues for churches of all sizes, denominations, and people groups: practical, proven strategies and leadership principles that speak to distinctive needs of each age group while preserving the Biblical roots for the communities of faith. See www.TransformingSolutions.org.

1979

When President Obama announced last fall that he would make new appointments to key administration posts, Ambassador Michael Guest was among those to be appointed. A senior advisor for the Council for Global Equality since 2008, he was named for appointment as member of the National Security Education Board, where he had served a previous term from 2011 to 2015. Guest joined the Foreign Service in 1981 and retired after serving as dean of the leadership and management school at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center from 2005 to 2007. He previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Romania, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Prague, and deputy executive secretary.

1984

Karen Miller Boda received her master of divinity degree from Emory University’s Candler School of Theology in May 2015 and is on track to be ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

1986

Last October, Steve Price and his doubles partner competed in the National Men’s 50s Clay Court Doubles Championship at Lakewood Ranch Country Club in Sarasota, FL, and earned the coveted gold ball that goes along with the championship. Adding to Price’s enjoyment of this win was the fact that it came against Ned Caswell ’86, his former doubles partner at Furman and a
Jeremy Fleming

McCoy, however, understands things from the ground level: He began his health care career by serving seven years as a paramedic in Greenville. His appointment last May as CEO is therefore something of a homecoming for the third-generation Furman alum and Greenville native. “To be able to come and do this in my hometown is so cool for me, knowing how much we can impact. We can make this the best community anywhere.”

Though part of McCoy’s job today is to “develop and define a vision” for hospital systems, he is the first to admit that while enrolled at Furman, his own future was not so clear. He followed in his grandfather’s and father’s footsteps by choosing the school, and his course of study (business administration) was general because “I didn’t know what I wanted to do.” During a stint lifeguarding at the PAC Center as an undergrad, however, he became curious about what would happen if there was an emergency on his watch. A connection at the church youth group he worked with provided him the opportunity to go on a Friday night ride along with Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He was hooked. “I realized I love taking care of people.”

A week before his graduation, McCoy enrolled at Greenville Tech and started working for the county while in paramedic school. During that time, McCoy realized EMS administration wasn’t ultimately the route he wanted to go. So, he started looking elsewhere. “For me, there was more interest in hospitals. I get bored easily. I like change and different things. We do so many different things in the acute care and hospital setting.”

Having found his path, McCoy worked full-time as a paramedic and attended graduate school at night, pulling off a three-year degree in a year and nine months with a 3.94 GPA.

His achievements since launching his career in health care systems are no less impressive. Besides turning around flagging bottom lines, McCoy considers his greatest successes to be when he is able to “get a team of people to believe in themselves again” within an organization that has been struggling.

Although he visibly lights up when reminiscing about his hands-on days as a paramedic, he relishes his current role in patient care, where he is responsible for “providing resources, setting up strategies, finding different ways to build business models and help people access health care.”

Part of the appeal of Bon Secours St. Francis, however, is its faith-based mission. As a devout Christian, McCoy says this aspect “resonates with me very much. Sure, we have to run it efficiently and effectively as a business, but at the end of the day, that’s not what we are all about. It’s really how we take care of the vulnerable, the poor, and the dying in our community.”

To that end, McCoy is excited for St. Francis to “be the catalyst” in Greenville for making health care accessible to disadvantaged sectors of the community.

“[Driving change] is going to take a lot of hard work, but it’s not impossible by any means.”

—Morgan L. Sykes
That degree, she says, primed her for working overseas, and from 1998 to 2012 she applied her energy and expertise to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). During her tenure with USAID, Sushka worked in a dozen countries, including Bulgaria, where in 2004 she established funding for two female Abbitt Goodwill Scholars in Furman’s international educational program. The investment was a harbinger of things to come.

In 2009, Sushka traveled to Bamiyan, Afghanistan, as the business development and gender advisor for USAID. With a population of some 6,000 people, most of them poor potato farmers, Bamiyan village is perched on a high ledge in the Hindu Kush mountains in central Afghanistan. In one program Sushka supervised, women who owned at least one cow were taught how to make yogurt and sell it at a local market stall. In another, she helped women start a craft business, and created and managed a program to teach female inmates who were unjustly imprisoned the skill of tailoring so they would be able to support their children upon being released (the families of these women frequently disown them). “It means a great deal to me to let women know that there are other options available to them,” she says.

During the following year, Sushka met one of the pivotal people in her life: Amina Hasan Pur, the Provincial Gender Advisor for Bamiyan’s governor. The two women became fast friends and Sushka learned of the private school Pur had started in a rented house in order to give children—including her own two—a better quality of education.

“Thirty years of war in Afghanistan has left every generation challenged, but they are a positive people who want to make their country better,” she says. “Education means empowerment for the students.”

Before leaving Afghanistan in 2012, Sushka made a promise to Pur that she would help build a proper school. “Amina is an outstanding local leader in a conservative society that does not value female excellence,” she says. Committed to the work Pur described, and in spite of cultural challenges, Sushka helped local officials become receptive to the pair’s vision for a school.

The Baba Private School opened in March 2015, funded by Sushka and her husband. It sits on a hill overlooking old Bamiyan town across the river. Today, Pur manages the solar-powered school (“Baba” means “respected elder” in Persian), where 126 children attend kindergarten through eighth grade. The goal is to add grades 9 through 12.

Sushka goes back to Afghanistan every year to visit. Even though she does not venture out alone in Bamiyan, she says she has never sensed that she was in any serious danger. In the end, however, danger may not matter because what lights up Sushka’s grey-blue eyes are the students at Baba School, and in particular how education is changing their aspirations: Zahra (age 11) wants to be a pilot; Surhia (age 10) wants to be an engineer; Amir (age 8) wants to be a photographer. Unlike at traditional public schools in Afghanistan, boys and girls at Baba School intermingle in the classrooms.

“It is so rewarding to walk into the classroom and have the kids speak to me in English,” Sushka says. Her hope is for students to continue their education at Bamiyan University, the only institution of higher learning in central Afghanistan. Sushka believes it is good education that will eventually strengthen the government and economy in this war-ravaged country.

“Baba School is my legacy,” she adds. More than that, though, it is a twinkling symbol—and reminder—to the village whose name itself translates as “The Place of Shining Light.”

—M. Linda Lee
groomsman in his wedding. Price and his wife, Catherine Fluck Price ’86, moved to Florida in June 1997 and are both pastors at Harvest United Methodist Church in Lakewood Ranch.

1987

Dottie Pepper, veteran broadcaster and winner of 17 tournaments on the LPGA Tour, joined CBS Sports as an on-course reporter and analyst for the CBS Television Network’s golf coverage in January. She made her debut on CBS Sports for the network’s coverage of the Farmers Insurance Open. In addition to broadcasting CBS’s full slate of golf in 2016, she will remain with ESPN as an analyst for their golf coverage.

1990

Penelope Parker Orr, a tenured professor at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, has been teaching at the University of Roehampton in London on a Fulbright grant. She was scheduled to return to the States at the end of January 2016.

1991

Kristy Duncan Dempsey has received the 2015 Golden Kite Award for “best picture book text.” These awards are presented annually by the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators and are the only ones of their kind to be judged by a jury of author and illustrator peers. Dempsey’s Picture Book Text Award was for her book A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina’s Dream, a story of little ballerinas with big dreams, in which Janet Collins, the first African-American prima ballerina, dances her way into the hearts of young readers. See: scbwi.org/app-

1992

The nonprofit youth ministry Young Life is celebrating 60 years in the Upstate. Dave Bokowy, the current director of Young Life in Greenville, is a 25-year veteran himself. Bokowy was a volunteer Young Life leader at Furman. When struggling with his choice of a major, the local Young Life director at that time encouraged him to pursue a staff position with the organization. He did so and went to Greensboro, NC, for his training, returning to the Upstate in 2005 as area director.


1995

Erin Austin Hahn has been named the new principal of B.B. Harris Elementary School in Suwanee, GA. Hahn previously worked as Title I Coordinator for school improvement in the district, data administrator at Summerour Middle School, and assistant principal at Summerour. Her Gwinnett County Public Schools tenure began in 2002 as a teacher at Peachtree Elementary School and she taught at Ashford Park Elementary School in Atlanta from 1995–02.

Alison Bracewell McCullick joined the University of Georgia-Athens (UGA) Office of Government Relations in January as community relations coordinator. In her new role, she will head the office of community relations, the primary liaison between UGA and the Athens-Clarke County government, businesses, neighborhoods, nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and individuals. McCullick served as associate director of intergovernmental affairs at The White House for two years.

1996

AIM Systems, Inc., announced that Rob Olterman was named president of the company effective September 1, 2015. In his new role with the company, he will have responsibility for developing business strategies and managing client and carrier relationships. Olterman, who completed the Certified Financial Planner certification through Oglethorpe in 2003, has nearly 20 years of financial services and sales leadership experience.

1997

Jason W. Searl has been elected chair of the city of Orlando municipal planning board. He has been on the board since 2011, serving in the role of vice director.

Quotable

“I WHOLEHEARTEDLY BELIEVE IN THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAY ALL DAY LONG THAT I DON’T BELIEVE IN EATING ANIMALS, BUT THAT DOESN’T MEAN I HAVE THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE THAT BELIEF ON ANOTHER SOUL. WE’RE FREE-THINKING PEOPLE. IF WE’RE NOT, WE FLATTEN TO NOTHING. AND EVERYTHING. WHICH IS NOTHING.”

— Brenda McClain ’74

Brenda McClain lives outside Nashville, TN, on land she calls “Peace of Soul Acres.” From there, she lives out both of her loves, writing fiction and her communications consulting business. Her novel, One Good Mama Bone, will be published by the late Pat Conroy’s fiction imprint, Story River Books, in early 2017. When she leaves her writing and cowgirl boots behind and dons a business suit for McClain Communications, she works with clients all across the country on message development and delivery. You can read more at: http://www.brenmclain.com.
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chair since 2013. This board advises Orlando’s City Council and comprises nine volunteer members. It holds public hearings to review and report recommendations to the Orlando City Council.

1998 Chad Dyar recently had his first book published. *How to Talk to Humans* focuses on specific communication styles and methodology to build stronger relationships with individuals in both the personal and professional world. He moved to New York City in November 2015 to begin a role as director of sales and operations for Greenhouse Software, Inc., a recruiting software company.

Jennifer A. Lentini’s paper, “Equine Facilitated Therapy with Children,” was published in the *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health* in October 2015.

1999 Sam Hubbard recently earned CFA charter and has started his own wealth management company, Coastal Capital Management, in Savannah, GA.

Jason Sammons has been named a partner in the process, risk, and governance practice of Frazier & Deeter CPA firm in Atlanta, GA. Sammons is skilled in the design and implementation of balanced and practical risk-based solutions for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of business processes, implementing risk management and internal control programs, and enhancing governance practices.

2000 Mark Horner received the master of divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in May 2015, where he was named the 2015 Alsup-Frierson Fellow in hermeneutics and Biblical studies. He is now the director of students for United Campus Ministry of Greater Houston (TX).

2001 Independent filmmaker Laura Waters Hinson, through her company Image Bearer Pictures, has released her latest documentary film. *Many Beautiful Things* delves into the untold story of one of the world’s greatest female artists, Lilias Trotter, and why her name was nearly lost to history. Hinson previously released *As We Forgive* and *Dog Days; Mama Rwanda* is scheduled for release later this year. She says that her company is committed to making films that explore the depths of the human experience and pose questions that bring about meaningful personal reflection, group discussion, and action within communities. Read more at www.ManyBeautifulThings.com.

In summer 2015 as part of Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course, Kim Strosnider studied model community-based efforts to preserve Bornean species along the Kinabatangan River in Sabah (East Malaysia) on the island of Borneo. A naturalist and SEED specialist at Columbus Metro Parks in Marysville, OH, Strosnider took the graduate course in pursuit of her master’s degree from Miami University’s Global Field Program.

Quotable

“WHEN I FIRST DEPLOYED TO AFGHANISTAN’S Ghazni Province in 2012, members of the Taliban had caught two teenage girls talking to a teenage boy. They had no tolerance for even that act of speech, let alone its content. As punishment, they burned the girls’ faces off with acid and then they killed them.

In the military we have a useful acronym: BLUF, bottom line up front. When lives are on the line as they are in combat, it’s critical to know what’s really going to happen. It’s fine to talk about what we want to happen and what we think should happen, but to be effective and competitive in real-world combat, we must operate on the bottom line.

BLUF: A transformative education requires a student to grapple with speech and ideas one is uncomfortable with, to listen and not to hide from them. That is the whole point. In the paratroops, the most effective training is always the most difficult. As the saying goes, ‘It’s training. It’s supposed to suck.’ And much of it does. But it also makes us useful soldiers and useful human beings.

Students, stand up for what you believe in for sure, but take a cue from Voltaire. Use your time at Furman to ‘tend your own garden.’ Humbly build an educated foundation, and do not confuse your aspirations with your accomplishments just yet. You are just getting started.”

— Michael MacLeod ’89

Michael MacLeod is one of the most published military photographers of the last decade and a recipient of both a Bronze Star and a Meritorious Service Medal. His work has earned dozens of awards, including *Military Journalist of the Year* in 2012, and has been published by *TIME*, The Huffington Post, Mother Jones, Fox News, CNN, Army Times, Business Insider, and The Atlantic. He holds a bachelor’s degree in biology and a master’s degree in wildlife biology. MacLeod spent three years living in a wilderness cabin in Montana studying elk, wolves, and mountain lions. *Grand Harbor Press* recently published *The Brave Ones: A Memoir of Hope, Pride, and Military Service*, *MacLeod’s* powerful account of joining the military at age 41.
Elizabeth Ingram Shands is director of psychology and learning services, and a licensed psychologist, at Clarity: The Speech, Hearing, and Learning Center in Greenville, SC.

2004
Latoya Michelle Mitchell began a new position in July 2015 as a senior medical writer at PharmaWrite, LLC, in Princeton, NJ. Her new position is 100 percent remote and she remains based in Raleigh, NC.

Jason Strand has joined the marketing and communications team at The Iron Yard, a Greenville-based code school operating in 17 U.S. cities as well as in London. He previously served in marketing at Michelin North America.

2005
Kate Brown Trudell of Knoxville, TN, has accepted a position as executive director for the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking based in Tennessee.

2006
Jonathan A. Porter has joined the HunterMaclean business law firm in Savannah and Brunswick, GA, as an associate in the company’s business litigation group. He earned his JD degree in May 2015 from Emory University School of Law, where he served as an articles editor for the Emory Law Journal. Prior to joining HunterMaclean, Porter was a clerk for Chief Judge John Ellington at the Georgia Court of Appeals in Atlanta, and completed a legal externship in Governor Nathan Deal’s office of executive council. He served as a summer associate at HunterMcLean and also at Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein LLP in Columbia, SC.

He is a member of the Telfair Museum of Art William Jay Society, the Historic Savannah Foundation 13th Colony, and the Propeller Club of the U.S. Port of Savannah chapter. He serves on the community council for Savannah Technical College Foundation.

2007
Todd Arant of Apex, NC, has been elected to the board of Choristers Guild, a nonprofit organization committed to nurturing the spiritual and musical growth of children and youth.

Pop artists don’t normally carry a cello, but that’s exactly what Sarah Schaffer Clanton does. Clanton—who sings, plays cello, and writes songs—has released her new self-titled EP. Sarah Clanton features three elements: the cello, vocals, and electric guitar, making the five-song record a complete sample of everything she can do musically. Her music and her songs are quirky, almost jazzy productions that wouldn’t be out of place in a nightclub. Clanton spent several years as a producer and booker for South Carolina’s solar-powered music festival, Music in the Woods, at Paris Mountain State Park in Greenville. She teaches both cello and songwriting to new audiences, privately or through working in schools.

Fuller Cridin of Jonesville, VA, was elected in November 2015 as district attorney for Lee County Commonwealth. His four-year term started in January. Cridin previously taught Spanish in the Lee County School System before earning a degree from Stetson University’s College of Law in 2011.

He served 18 months as a law clerk with the Supreme Court of Virginia, and currently serves as president of the Lee County Bar Association and as an advisor on the Lee County Drug Court Committee.

Meredith Camby Hartman opened a Bella Bridesmaids showroom in Philadelphia, PA, last September. She is also sole owner and lead stylist of the dress store.

2008
Eva Klemper Scippa, assistant art librarian and coordinator of instruction at Alfred (NY) University’s Scholes Library, was awarded the 2015 Public Relations/Exhibition Award from the South Central Regional Library Council. She was nominated for her leadership and organization of last fall’s “Harry Potter’s World” exhibit and events at Scholes.

2009
Scott Alan Davis received his doctor of medicine degree from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in May 2015. He is currently a transitional year intern at Spartanburg (SC) Regional Healthcare System, and will continue his training in ophthalmology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock in July 2016.

2011
Mary Frances Duncan graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Port Orange, FL, in June 2015 with a doctor of chiropractic degree. She returned to the Upstate and opened Southern Chiropractic Center in downtown Greenville in the fall of 2015.

Brooke M. Stallings of Richmond, VA, completed her master’s degree in ecohydrology from the University of Idaho College of Natural Resources in December 2015.

2012
In May 2015, Kathleen Wade received her JD and LLM degrees from Duke University School of Law, and was scheduled for admission to the State Bar of Texas in fall 2015. She became an associate with Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas, TX, in October 2015.

2013
Chelsea Lawdahl has been hired by Infinity Marketing, a Greenville advertising agency, as a media specialist, working with the company’s DJ endorsement program. She previously worked as development coordinator for the Greenville Humane Society.

CLASS NOTES POLICY
We welcome your submissions to Class Notes. Due to the amount of material Furman receives for this section—and the time needed to edit that material—items are often not published until six months after they are submitted. However, please be advised that we rarely publish items more than 18 months old and no announcements of things that have not yet occurred. When sending news of births, please include the parent name(s), child’s name, birthdate, and city of birth; for marriages, include the city and date of the event, the new spouse’s name, and his/her year of graduation if from Furman. News about couples who graduated from Furman in different years is listed under the earliest graduation date. It is not listed with both classes. Incomplete information for any of the above may result in the submission remaining unpublished. The magazine reserves the right to edit submissions.
a group project. “We connected because we were the slower ones of the group,” they insist, though their resume of professional successes would certainly suggest otherwise.

“Austin was red-shirted and I broke my foot, so our usually crazy practice schedules were on hold and we had more time to hang out,” Jen reports.

The chemistry was instant but as Austin tells it: “We both maybe wanted to date, but Jen was shy and actually tried to set me up with one of her friends.”

“Thankfully, that didn’t work out,” Jen laughs. The friendship slowly grew into more after graduation, she says. “When we started hanging out, we struggled a little bit with how to not just be friends. But that didn’t last long.”

And on November 3, 2014, after dating for a little more than three years, it was time for more.

Austin surprised Jen with a proposal that didn’t quite go according to plan (the perfect restaurant was unexpectedly closed for renovations and the cat escaped from Jen’s house), but her answer was an unequivocal yes.

Reflecting on their young marriage, the chaos of raising puppies, and a combined energy that is palpable, the Reeves are even-keeled. “I live with my best friend and every minute we spend together is doing something we both love to do,” says Jen. “I really can’t even put into words how glad I am we are married,” says Austin. “But the one thing that is an adjustment is the unknown of sharing your life with another person. There is always a potential new project that is never convenient.

“Or maybe a potential new pet,” he jokes.

If it’s true that a puppy prepares a young couple for the responsibility of one day raising a family, it is safe to say Jen and Austin Reeves have it down pat. What was once one rescue dog has now grown to four (plus a cat) because the Reeves could not leave littermates behind when they selected their second puppy.

“Jen has a huge heart for dogs,” Austin laughs, but it is easy to tell she is not alone. How else would he be okay with coming home expecting one new puppy and finding three?

When they are not busy playing Dr. Doolittle, the Reeves are settling in to a new life together after marrying in August of 2015. Both former Furman athletes (Jen, tennis; Austin, golf), their days are action-filled. Austin works as an associate coach for Furman’s golf team, and Jen, in sales at ADP in Greenville.

“We love to work out, eat, go to concerts and sporting events—Clemson football in particular—and just playing together with our dogs,” Jen says. Through her work, Jen has won several trips that enabled multiple honeymoons. “We’ve been able to travel to Maui, Barcelona, Whistler, and Cabo San Lucas all through work,” she says.

The two met in a marketing class with Dr. Underwood and cemented their friendship over
OBITUARIES

Irene Dill Loftis ’31, December 29, 2015, Greenville, SC
Mary Frances Garrett ’37, September 17, 2015, Fountain Inn, SC
Doris Ekstrom Scott ’38, October 1, 2015, Walnut Cove, NC
Burton Clinton Smith, Sr. ’39, November 17, 2015, Waynesville, NC
Martha Bennett Ellis ’40, January 21, 2016, Florence, SC
Mary Catherine Gray Smith ’40, June 15, 2015, Naples, FL
Mary Katherine Keith Ford ’42, November 16, 2015, Hendersonville, NC
Charlotte Ponder Neighbors ’42, December 10, 2015, Morrisstown, TN
James David “J.D.” Walters, Sr. ’42, January 1, 2016, Greenville, SC
Suzanne Garrett Belotte ’43, October 1, 2015, Greensboro, NC
Josie Bell Leary Cox ’44, October 15, 2015, Clinton, SC
Dwight Wallace Hughey ’44, October 15, 2015, Greenville, SC
Arlan Alexander “A.A.” Bailey ’45, December 11, 2015, Gastonia, NC
Juanita Davis Brannock ’45, November 6, 2015, Greenville, SC
Mary Pendarvis Kirby ’45, December 5, 2015, Eutawville, SC
Martha Simpson Wagoner ’46, August 31, 2015, Richmond, VA
Dorothy Miller Beckwith ’47, November 4, 2015, Greenville, SC
Thomas Frederick Childress, Jr. ’47, August 13, 2015, Columbia, SC
Agnes Bowen Kleckley ’49, September 21, 2015, Charleston, SC
Howard Barry Mitchell ’49, September 26, 2015, Laurens, SC
William Francis Pettit ’49, September 9, 2015, Greenville, SC
Seline Drake Ruth ’49, September 30, 2015, Greenville, SC
Jimmye Ruth Partee Thompson ’49, February 7, 2016, Greenville, SC
Bernice Stanley Clanton ’50, September 13, Atlanta, GA
Donald Douglas Gilstrap, Sr. ’50, September 7, 2015, Taylorsville, NC
Suzanne Moore Lomas ’52, November 4, 2015, Simpsonville, SC
Duane Lamar Malphrus, Sr. ’52, September 2, 2015, Fountain Inn, SC
Thomas Bartley Prince, MA ’52, December 29, 2015, Spartanburg, SC
Bobbie Jean Ellis Branch ’53, November 30, 2015, Myrtle Beach, SC
Mary Asbury Cobb ’53, October 11, 2015, Atlanta, GA
Ellen Martin Davis ’53, August 20, 2015, Blacksheer, GA
Ralph Marion Wilkie ’53, September 7, 2015, Mount Pleasant, SC
Joanne “Jojo” Copeland Willis ’53, December 30, 2015, Clemson, SC
Margaret Faith Johnson Lehman ’54, January 8, 2015, Rocky Mount, NC
Eugene S. Pedrick ’54, November 9, 2015, Hinesville, GA
Barbara Raines Pou ’54, August 25, 2015, Amarillo, TX
Margaret Mims Johnston ’55, August 23, 2015, Greenville, SC
Barbara Jean Mackey Rodal ’55, September 19, 2015, Honea Path, SC
Robert Wayne Taylor ’55, September 21, 2015, Aiken, SC
James O. Blackwelder ’56, December 2, 2015, Wingate, NC
Howard M. Walters, Jr. ’56, February 14, 2015, Garner, NC
Mary Dominick Weeks ’56, September 6, 2015, Anderson, SC
Janice Ethelene Campbell Cloninger ’57, August 27, 2015, Gastonia, NC
A Note From Cherrydale

In my last letter, I spoke about our upcoming rollout of our regional engagement plan. That plan is taking shape, and 2016 will be a big year with more events and energy coming to a city near you. In fact, we are in the process of hiring a new teammate here at Cherrydale to focus on the rollout of that plan. The plan allows for our alumni to take the initiative to bring events and fun to other Furman alumni/parents in their communities. Local ownership of regional engagement, with oversight and coaching from our office, is essential to maximize the potential we see for greater connection amongst each other.

And the potential is abundant. More and more, we are seeing alumni energy from around the nation, and many are getting creative. One great example is the Furman Metropolitan Fellowship. This fellowship was created by young alumni who are working, or have worked, in New York City. They wanted to create a stronger pipeline of Furman talent entering the NYC job market, and afterward help that talent understand how to network and navigate there. So, what these young alums did was start, and significantly fund, a scholarship for an internship for a Furman student to work in New York for a summer. The intern will not only get access to alumni working in the City, but also experience mentoring and access to strategic events happening around the city.

That’s the kind of thinking our office is committed to supporting. We want to be a strategic resource in helping Furman alumni/parents across the nation be successful in driving engagement and energy in their respective regions. One very important tool that we are launching to assist with connecting, networking, and informing is our new mobile app called The Furman App. The Furman App is available to be downloaded on your mobile device through Google Play or the Apple App Store. It is a powerful tool in receiving pertinent Furman news that interests you, and it offers cool features that allow Furman alumni and parents to connect with each other, and assist each other with career or business needs. Please download the app today and experience its power to connect Paladins wherever they are. In the meantime, keep up the great things happening in the name of Furman, and let us know about the gatherings and networking happening in your communities.

Mike Wilson ’88
Executive Director, Alumni and Parent Engagement
Edward Earl '86, June 19, 2015, Redwood, WA
Patricia Nelson Earle '86, November 2, 2015, Greenville, SC
Gerald Michael Grismore '90, October 22, 2015, Elizabeth, IN
Annette Dale Rentenberg '90, December 23, 2015, Powell, OH
Elizabeth Irene Baxter '91, August 8, 2015, Hartsville, SC
Ronald Keith Brewer '98, July 30, 2015, McKinney, TX
Nathaniel A. Dokmo '00, August 21, 2015, Milford, NH
Cory Von Morgan '03, October 15, 2015, Greer, SC

IN FOCUS

Earle McGee Rice '41, August 28, 2015, Anderson, SC. After graduating from Furman, Rice earned his pilot's wings in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He attended Command and General Staff School and at the end of his active military service remained in the Air Force Reserves, retiring as a colonel. He then earned his degree from Duke Law School, joined his father's law firm in Anderson, SC, and went on to serve as Anderson County Judge from 1949 to 1963. He was active in various civic endeavors and held numerous leadership positions, including president of the Anderson County Bar Association and the Anderson Kiwanis Club. Founders Day speaker at Anderson College, district chair of the Boy Scouts of America, member of the general board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and a trustee on Furman University's board. He also served on the boards of the Anderson County Hospital association, YMCA, Hospice of Anderson, Chamber of Commerce, and the Anderson Lay School of Theology.

Lloyd E. Batson '47, February 5, 2016, Easley, SC. After Batson earned his undergraduate degree at Furman, he entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to receive his BD and ThD degrees. In recognition of his extraordinary service, both institutions gave him signal honors, including the honorary doctor of divinity degree from Furman, where he served on the board of trustees as secretary, vice-chair, and chair, and then again as trustee emeritus. He served to help Furman integrate the student body in the 1960s and to become a nationally recognized institution of higher learning. While in seminary, Batson served churches in Indiana and in 1956 began a 33-year pastorate at Pickens (SC) First Baptist Church. He was involved in many local organizations, including Cannon Memorial Hospital, Pickens Rotary Club, Meals on Wheels, and North Greenville (SC) College. This longtime leader of Baptist life in the state of South Carolina, the region, and the nation, served as president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and chaired the Sunday School Board of the convention. He undertook several international missions, including a journey to South Africa under assignment from the Foreign Mission Board. After retiring from his pastoral work, Dr. Batson served as a chaplain at Easley (SC) Baptist Hospital and frequently wrote columns for the Easley Progress, which were ultimately compiled in the volume From My Life's Journey.

Posey Belcher, Jr. '54, January 22, 2016, Rock Hill, SC. After graduating from Furman, Belcher continued his education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, earning a master of divinity degree in 1957. He was an intern in Mobile, AL, for two years and then served for 19 years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Barnwell, SC, followed by 16 years at the First Baptist Church of Walterboro, SC. He held leadership positions in the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Belcher received a major state honor when he was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, presented by the governor of South Carolina. The Order of the Palmetto is the state's highest civilian honor. Furman honored him in 1982 with an honorary doctor of divinity degree, and his and his wife's children created the Posey and Jean O. Belcher Organ Fund at Furman in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Larry D. Estridge '66, October 6, 2015, Greenville, SC. Estridge graduated from Harvard Law School in 1969 and was employed with Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, LLP. He served as a member of the Furman board of trustees from 1996 to 2001 and again from 2002 until his death. He was also on the board and president of the Children's Museum of the Upstate from 1998 to 2001, was president of Greenville Central Area Partnership (downtown revitalization) from 1982 to 1983 and from 1987 to 1988. He was on the board of the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce from 1997 to 2000, and acted as its general counsel in 1997. Estridge was a decorated officer in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.
We fall asleep curled around each other’s
dips and hollows, long eyelashes closed over
still-young cheeks, our bodies
soft and exhausted. We are children, gone quiet
after hours of whispered secrets.
today, our love is simple.
if I could stand up and slip out of sleep and skin—
see my own face peeking through clouds of white down,
his hand on my hip as it rises
and falls with the deep breath of dreams,
I’d like to tuck us both in a little tighter.
I’d like to kiss his forehead
and then my own.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Anne Marie Powell ’16, a senior English major from Columbia, SC, has hopes of earning her MFA in poetry after leaving Furman. She has a particular fondness for trees, mint tea, and elephants, and spends most of her free time listening to audiobooks. ABOUT THE ARTIST Michael Brodeur is a painter and draughtsman who earned his bachelor’s degree in art at the University of New Hampshire and his MFA in painting/drawing from Boston University, where he studied with Philip Guston and James Weeks. An associate professor in studio art at Furman, Brodeur has exhibited nationally and internationally, including in solo and group shows at 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Minsk, Belarus; the Greenville County Museum of Art; the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art; and at Central Missouri State University. His work is in numerous public and private collections.
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As an alum, you can identify the next generation of Furman alums. Be on the lookout for the most passionate and driven student leaders—those who are pursuing lives of meaning for the betterment of our world.

Send your student recommendations to Furman’s Office of Admission at admission@furman.edu, or call 864.294.2034.

It takes one to know one.